southern voice

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 29 | WWW.SOVO.COM | ALL THE NEWS FOR YOUR *LIFE*. AND YOUR *STYLE*. | AUGUST 30/2001

Black, out and proud

Hundreds of African-American gays are expected in Atlanta this weekend for Black Gay Pride 2001, a weekend of cookouts, parties and a first-ever Black Gay Pride March on Monday, Sept. 3.

Atlanta section, page 15

ATLANTA EDITION

State Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale) says new districts introduced this week give her a better chance at re-election, but the fight is not over for the only openly gay member of the state legislature.

Atlanta section, page 3

Nana Nyarko picked up the endorsement of Georgia Equality in her bid for the Atlanta City Council District 1 seat, a move that leaves behind a gay challenger.

Atlanta section, pages 3, 5

John Blaine Williams, an assistant high school principal in Savannah, has allegedly confessed to authorities that he killed his boyfriend during a domestic dispute on Aug. 22.

Atlanta section, page 6

IN THIS WEEK'S ATLANTA SECTION

Hotbed of homophobia?

BRUNSWICK, Ga.— A recent flurry of anti-gay activity in Brunswick and Glynn County near Savannah could mean the torch of anti-gay activism is being passed from Atlanta's Cobb County to the other end of the state.

In 1993, Cobb earned a national anti-gay reputation after county commissioners passed a resolution condemning the gay "lifestyle" as "incompatible with community standards."

This summer, Glynn County, which sits in the far southeast corner of Georgia, has seen controversy over a gay men's health summit, an attempted book-banning due in part to gay-related content, and the creation of a citizen's group dedicated to opposing "gay militants" that has received positive coverage in the local newspaper.

Outrage at a gay men's health summit there last weekend didn't materialize, though Jeff Wilkinson, a member of the planning committee of the summit, said the attention actually bolstered the event.

"It reinforced the need to have a summit to come together to look at gay men's health issues, knowing [we're] still facing opposition and ignorance in the community at large," he said.

Open to the Atlanta section, page 1

'This is by and large a creation of [one activist] and apparently just a means to gay bash.'

—Beth Littrell, director of the ACLU's safe schools project, responding to a Glynn County panel with the above title.

Cloning = gay rights?

As the controversial debate over human cloning heats up, gays and gay issues are more central than you might expect

by LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

Earlier this month, two researchers told a meeting of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington that they expect to begin cloning humans as early as November.

Meanwhile, scientists with the Raelians—a religious group that believes humans were created by aliens during cloning experiments—say they are also on the verge of human cloning.

Fascinating, frightening maybe, but not a "gay issue," you say? Take a closer look.

Last fall, the Raelians held a press conference in San Francisco to announce how "human cloning will allow gay couples to have children." Clonaid, a for-profit business they created and claim to be the world's first human cloning company, specifically markets its services to gays.

Meanwhile, the man *Time Magazine* dubbed "the face of cloning fervor in the U.S." is openly gay: Randolfe Wicker, a gay rights activist since the 1950s.

Search for human cloning on the Internet, and you'll find Wicker.

➢ **Continued on Page 14**

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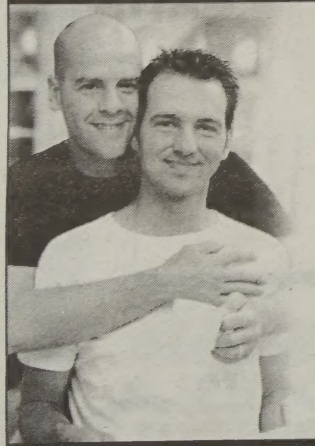

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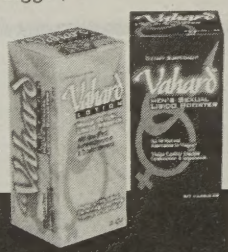

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VOLUME 14.29 WWW.SOVO.COM

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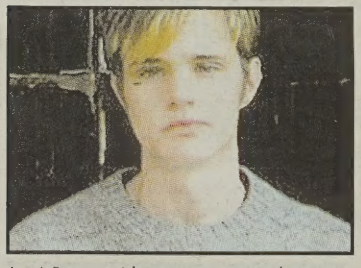

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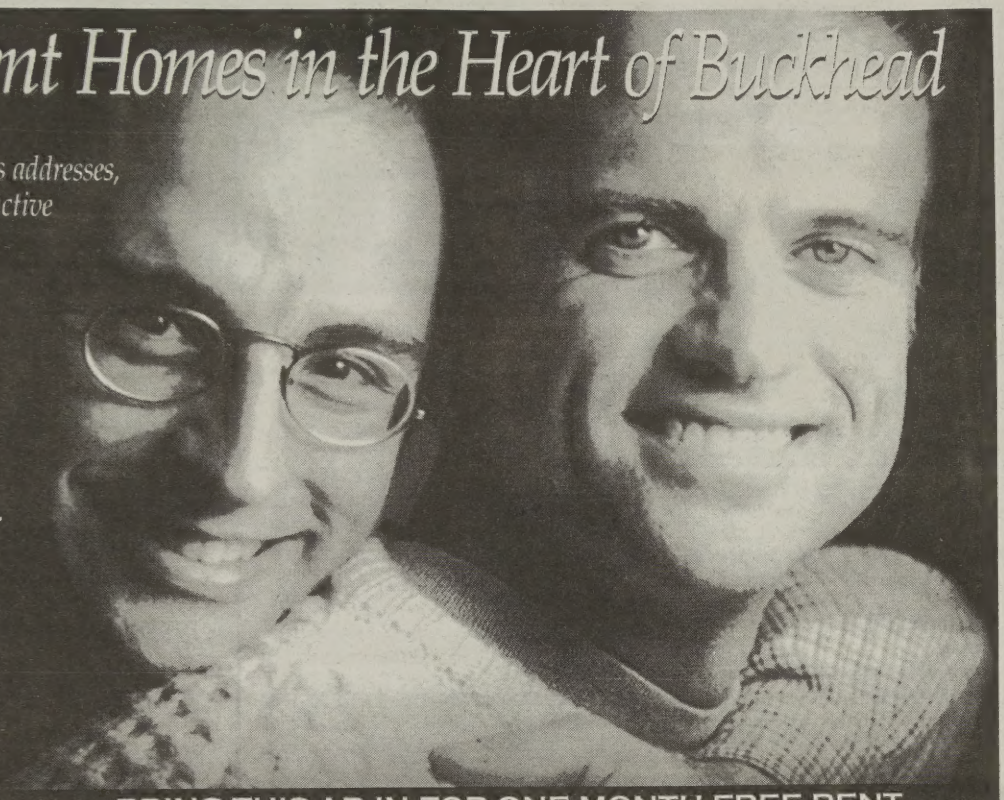

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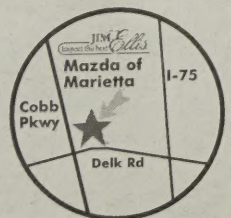

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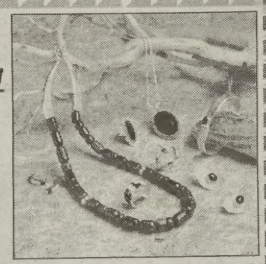

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Bush names gay man to arts commission

NY developer second high-level appointment for GOP White House

by LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush last week named New York real estate developer, arts advocate and gay Republican activist Donald A. Capoccia as a member of the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts.

The commission, among other things, approves the design and location of memorials and monuments in the nation's capital.

Capoccia, 46, becomes the Bush administration's second openly gay appointment. In April, Bush appointed Scott Evertz, then president of the gay Log Cabin Republicans of Wisconsin, as director of the White House National AIDS Policy Office.

Unlike Evertz, who works full-time on the White House staff, Capoccia's appointment is a non-paid, voluntary position to a 7-member commission which acts mostly as an advisory body.

INFO

U.S. Commission on Fine Arts
The National Building Museum
441 F St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
202-504-2200

The Commission on Fine Arts, created by an act of Congress in 1910, provides the president, Congress and federal and D.C. government agencies with expert advice on building and landscape architecture and other design related matters that have an impact on the appearance of Washington, D.C., according to literature released by the commission.

In its one area of decision-making authority, the commission is assigned the task of approving the siting and design of U.S. memorials in D.C. and throughout the nation as well as on U.S. property in foreign countries.

Capoccia has been active in Republican Party politics in New York, where he has been a strong supporter of New York's GOP governor, George Pataki, and New York City's Republican mayor, Rudolph Giuliani. He was the keynote speaker at a gay tribute to Giuliani held in June at Gracie Mansion, the mayor's official residence.

Pataki recently named Capoccia as gay liaison to his 2002 re-election campaign. In 1998, Pataki appointed Capoccia to the board of the New York State Council on the Arts, which provides grants to private arts organizations.

Capoccia was among the 12 gay Republican activists who met in Austin, Texas with then-GOP presidential candidate George Bush in April 2000. After his election in November, Bush named Capoccia to his transition team overseeing the Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Capoccia currently serves as vice chair of the Republican Unity Coalition, a group formed in January by Charles Francis, Bush's openly gay campaign advisor. Francis has described the group as a "gay-straight alliance" aimed at promoting acceptance of gays within the Republican Party and at building gay support for GOP candidates.

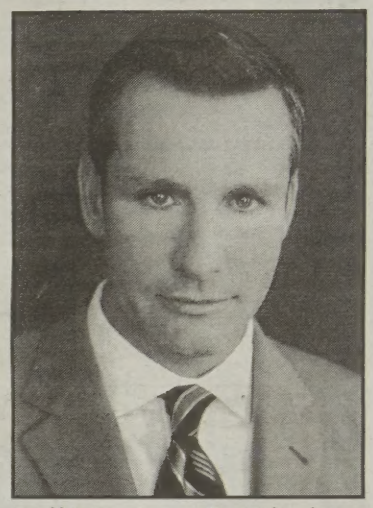
Capoccia, a resident of Manhattan, is president of BFC Construction and serves as managing partner of BFC Partners. Literature released by his office says the two firms, acting together, develop, build, market, and manage real estate projects and properties in New York City with a combined value exceeding $500 million.

Capoccia holds a bachelors degree in urban affairs and a masters degree in urban planning, and he is active in a group that promotes American artists and historic preservation.

In his role on the New York arts council, Capoccia has focused on the impact of arts funding on the economic development of neighborhoods, including economically distressed communities, according to information released by his office.

"We're thrilled that he has been picked for this important appointment," said Tim Concannon, president of the Log Cabin Republicans of New York City, of which Capoccia is a member.

"He has demonstrated a strong commitment to the arts. This shows that the Bush administration will appoint people who are qualified for positions regardless of their sexual orientation," Concannon said.



Donald A. Capoccia, a gay New York real estate developer, was named by President Bush last week to the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts. Capoccia joins Scott Evertz, Bush's AIDS czar, as the second high-ranking gay in the administration.

Pro-gay Republicans issue 'Cody Statement'

Republican Unity Coalition calls for diversity and 'rugged independence'

by LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON—Four leading members of the Republican Unity Coalition, a group that bills itself as a GOP gay-straight alliance, released a declaration of principles earlier this month calling on the Republican Party to embrace the principles of diversity and tolerance as well as "rugged independence."

The RUC members called their declaration the Cody Statement in recognition of Cody, Wy., the hometown of former U.S. Sen. Alan Simpson, the group's honorary chairperson. Simpson hosted the meeting in which the statement was drafted at Cody's Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

INFO

Republican Unity Coalition
P.O. Box 19206
Washington, DC 20036
202-546-4242
www.republicanunitycoalition.org

Log Cabin Republicans
1633 Q St., NW No: 210
Washington, DC 20009
202-347-5306
www.lcr.org

"We believe in freedom," the statement says. "We believe everyone should be included in America's proud progression toward full civil equality for all, without regard to sexual orientation."

"Some of us are straight, some of us are gay or lesbian, and some of us think it is nobody's business but our own what we are," the statement continues. "All of us are American—unique, multi-dimensional, defying any one label but united by three common commitments."

The statement lists these as:

- Freedom and "civil equality" for all without "special privilege."
- Families, which "form the core of civilized society, whichever the many loving forms families may take in 21st Century America."
- Respect for "faith" and the "value and importance of moral and ethical standards... although not all of us worship God or a Higher Being. ... But no matter what our private beliefs, we are all publicly devoted to an America in which everyone is free to pursue life, liberty, and happiness."

"We pledge, in short," the statement continues, "to be 'Cody Republicans': a Republican who is very traditional in holding the ideals of rugged independence, integrity, fairness and being respectful of your friends and neighbors; and persistent in our commitment for those ideals to apply equally to all."

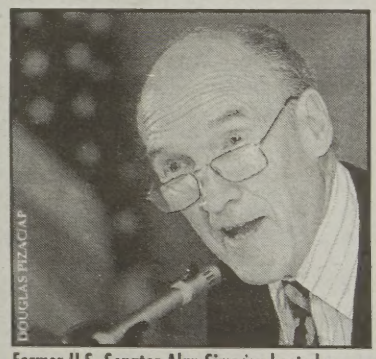
Those signing the statement, in addition to Simpson, were Charles Francis, the gay Republican activist and campaign adviser to President Bush who founded the Republican Unity Coalition last January; former U.S. Rep. Michael Huffington (R-Calif.), a conservative Republican activist who disclosed that he is gay after losing a race for the U.S. Senate; and Donald Capoccia, a gay Republican activist and New York City real estate developer whom Bush appointed in August to the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts.

Simpson, a highly respected Republican leader who retired from the Senate in 1996, emerged as an outspoken advocate for the acceptance of gays in the Republican Party in January when he agreed to serve as master of ceremonies for the RUC's first public function during the week of the Bush inauguration.

At the time he signed on as the RUC's honorary chairperson in April, he sent a letter to 1,000 GOP activists nationwide urging them to join the RUC.

On Aug. 9, three days after the RUC issued the Cody Statement, Log Cabin Republicans, the national gay GOP group, issued its own "Spirit of Lincoln Resolution 2002." Log Cabin stated in a press release that the resolution was first written and signed in 1996 by 20 Republican elected officials, including two governors, four U.S. senators, and 14 U.S. House members.

The Log Cabin statement, similar to the Cody Statement, calls for an inclusive Republican Party that embraces all Americans regardless of their sexual orientation.



Former U.S. Senator Alan Simpson hosted a recent meeting of the Republican Unity Coalition in which the group, billing itself as gay-straight alliance in the GOP, called on Republicans to embrace 'rugged independence.'

Is all-gay TV network still unplugged?

TTN announces new start date for gay channel, but questions linger about viability of launch

by ERIC ERICKSON

America's first all-gay TV network says it will launch Sept. 5, though the company has failed to meet a critical deadline with its satellite provider to get the channel on the air.

The target date for airing Triangle Television Network is the fifth one the Palm Springs-based company has announced since last November, missing each of the first four dates over a variety of complications.

But on Sept. 5, according to the company's Web site, TTN will launch with 24 hours of gay programming.

INFO

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Littleton, CO 80120
www.dishnetwork.com

Triangle Television Network
1000 E. Tahqultz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262
760-322-9707
www.triangletelevisionnetwork.com
www.qbid.net/pridecola.htm

Controversy has surrounded TTN since its inception, most notably last March when the channel—originally called the Gay Television Network—changed its name to TTN. The company said its supposed satellite provider, Dish Network, didn't want to use the word "gay" in advertising.

The new ad campaign for TTN never mentioned the word "gay," instead calling TTN the "first television channel for America's alternative lifestyles."

At the time, Dish Network refused to comment on its partnership with TTN.

The gay channel has said subscribers would pay an additional $19.95 fee on top of any Dish subscription charges to receive it. On two occasions, representatives from EchoStar, Dish Network's parent company, said they needed to receive final payments before the deal could be sealed.

On its Web site, TTN says they do have "a contractual agreement with a satellite provider to begin broadcasting the Triangle Television Network, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week."

TTN does not say which satellite provider is helping launch the channel next week. But Judianne Atencio, public relations representative for EchoStar, said it isn't Dish Network.

"We still do not have a deal with Triangle Network," Atencio said. "A payment was due before July 31 for us to launch on the fifth [of September]. We still have not received that payment. So as of now we are not planning to launch them."

Frank Olsen, TTN's chief executive officer, did not respond to repeated requests for an interview.

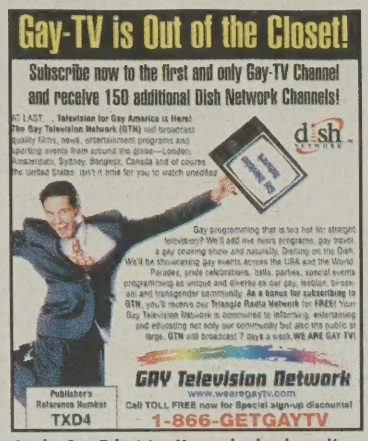
On its Web site, Olsen posted several letters discussing the channel and its scheduled launch date. During an Internet subscribe-a-thon last month, Olsen wrote that they attracted 19,000 requests for subscriptions to the channel.

TTN is also fielding criticism from the Gay Lesbian International News Network—a gay news service based in Wisconsin—over its offering of a penny stock. The news service issued a warning earlier this month that the company's stock—traded as QBID—may be a "a massive stock scam" hyped by TTN and others with a financial interest in the company to inflate its value.

Financial planners advise caution when it comes to investing in TTN because the company raises several red flags.

"If you've got clients that are aggressive and like to gamble with a little bit of money, we would probably tell them to limit it to a certain amount and no more. And then be prepared to lose every bit that goes in," said Russell Clarke, a financial planner with American Express Financial Advisors in Atlanta.

TTN has also expanded its offerings to include Pride Cola, according to the company's Web site.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As the Gay Television Network, the channel's ads earlier this year trumpeted gay programming. But when GTN changed to Triangle Television Network in March, 'gay' was omitted in favor of 'alternative lifestyles.'

BROWN BAG BOOGIE
Sept. 10-14 • Noon
Bring your lunch and enjoy live music daily at the Hall of Fame for free!
Monday 9/10
RESERVE GENERATION
Tuesday 9/11
ARTHUR PONDER & FRIENDS
Wednesday 9/12
REDNECK GREECE DELUXE
Thursday 9/13
CAROLINE AIKEN
Friday 9/14
KING JOHNSON
GEORGIA MUSIC WEEK
SEPT. 8-14
MACON, GA
Reserve Generation
Arthur Ponder & Friends
Redneck Greece Deluxe
Mother's Finest
Caroline Aiken
King Johnson
KIDZ JAM
Sept. 8 10am-2pm
Sept. 9 1-4pm
Outdoor activities are Free
Museum admission with additional indoor activities:
$3 kidz • $6 adults.
Family fun festival with live music and entertainment, hands-on activities & more!
PAM BLANCHARD & THE SUNNY-SIDE UP BAND
PAUL VOGLER'S PERCUSSION WORKSHOP
MIKE FULLER THE MAGICIAN
COWBOY ENVY
JAMIE KEENA
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GEORGIA MUSIC HALL OF FAME
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Celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Georgia Music Hall of Fame with:
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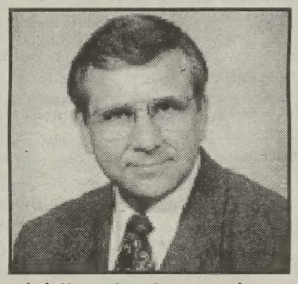
FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT Friday • September 14 • 7pm
JAMMIN' IN THE STREET
PLUS MOTHER'S FINEST & CAROLINE AIKEN
Bring your lawn chairs. No coolers.

Gay judge who switched parties may run for Helms' seat

CHARLOTTE—An openly gay Superior Court judge in North Carolina disclosed this week that he is considering a bid for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Republican Jesse Helms. According to the *Charlotte Observer*, Ray Warren, 44, who switched from the Republican to the Democratic Party shortly after revealing in 1998 that he's gay, becomes the eighth person to express interest in running for Helms' seat since Helms announced last week he is retiring at the end of his current term. Warren's announcement that he is forming an exploratory committee to consider a bid for Helms' seat comes at a time when many of North Carolina's gay Democratic Party activists were lining up behind Elaine Marshall, the North Carolina secretary of state. Marshall has expressed support for gay civil rights and some gays were readying support for her. Warren once worked for Helms while attending law school and was elected in 1984 as a state representative, according to the newspaper. He was later chosen as minority leader in the state House of Representatives before becoming the state's first openly gay judge and Republican elected official.

Council in MN overrides mayor's rejection of Pride welcome

DULUTH, Minn. (AP)—City Council members went against their mayor and officially welcomed a Gay Pride festival set for this weekend in Duluth. Mayor Gary Doty vetoed the proposal last week and the council needed a 6-3 vote to override his decision. This is the first time the city has recognized the festival since it began in the late 1980s. Doty's refusal to issue a proclamation acknowledging the festival prompted gays and supporters to flood the council chambers Monday. "Until this community—including the mayor—can welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people as a valuable part of Duluth, then march we must," said resident Jonie Langdon-Larson. Several council members criticized Doty for vetoing the resolution. Doty had said he vetoed the legislation because he believed "most Duluthians recognize the legal right of the group to hold an event such as this, [but] they do not want a proclamation from the city endorsing it."



Duluth Mayor Gary Doty vetoed a resolution to recognize the city's Gay Pride festival, though City Council members overruled his decision.

WA high court upholds Vancouver partner benefits

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)—The city of Vancouver can continue providing health benefits to domestic partners of gay city employees, the Washington Supreme Court has ruled. The 8-1 decision on Aug. 23 will likely stretch beyond the city's borders. Other cities, including Seattle and Olympia, and the state have similar policies. The policy allows domestic partners, including same-sex partners, to receive health insurance benefits. It also allows employees to use their sick leave for partners or partners' children. Vancouver resident Roni Heinsma challenged the policy soon after it was adopted in 1998, arguing that the city was creating a kind of mini-marriage in violation of the state law against same-sex marriage. The court disagreed. "We conclude that the city's recognition of domestic partnership is limited and that the program does not unconstitutionally interfere with the legislature's ability to regulate familial relationships on a statewide level," Justice Susan Owens wrote for the majority.

around the nation

OK city council restricts banners after pride flags

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The City Council restricted messages on bus-stop benches and light-pole banners Tuesday after flags promoting Gay Pride offended some residents. Now organizations cannot use city light poles and bus benches to promote social, political or religious issues. In the past, groups could use banners and bus benches to advertise just as long as the messages related to an event. "This is a major step toward diminishing free speech in Oklahoma," said Bill Rogers, an attorney and member of the Cimarron Alliance, which put up the banners for Gay Pride festivities. "They treat the population of this city as though we're a multitude of idiots." The Cimarron Alliance submitted a banner design to the city and got permission to put up their banners on 44 light poles from June 1 through July 7. But city workers removed the banners, which included torch flames and rainbows, on June 27 without telling the group. The Cimarron Alliance threatened to sue, prompting officials to put them back up until July 17 to fulfill the remaining nine days of the group's permit.

FL group to sue county election supervisor

MIAMI—Take Back Miami-Dade, an anti-gay organization pushing for a referendum on an anti-bias law that protects gays in Miami-Dade County, said it will file a federal lawsuit challenging the election supervisor's decision to throw out 23 affidavits of people who say they signed the referendum petitions, the *Miami Herald* reported. The suit to be filed on behalf of the 23 people is accusing Miami-Dade Elections Supervisor David Leahy of violating "the rights of voters" by using his discretion to disregard their affidavits, which attested their petition signatures were wrongly disqualified. The move by the group came a week after a Miami-Dade county judge left it up to Leahy whether to accept the 23 affidavits. The group collected 50,912 signatures last November. During a random sampling, Leahy disqualified 38 signatures. The state attorney's office has launched an investigation into possible signature fraud.

—From staff and wire reports

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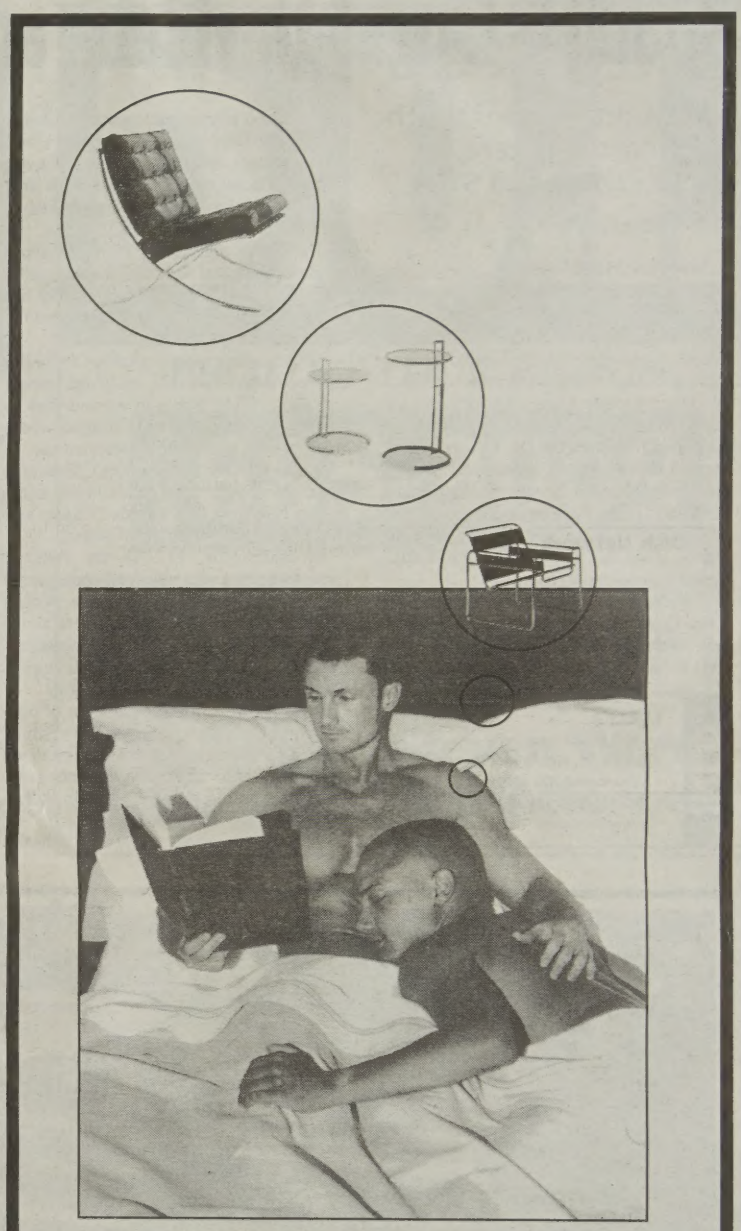

By Desōgn

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Spanish-language videos address Latina lesbian health

Educational videos touch on gynecology care, breast cancer and STDs

by RHONDA SMITH

WASHINGTON—Between commuting to New Jersey to be with her partner at Princeton and working as an information technology specialist in Washington, Belinda Gonzalez recently decided to learn more about the health of women like her.

"I came because it was a talk for Latina lesbians, which is something that really hasn't happened in Washington, D.C., in a long time," she said, explaining why she recently attended her first discussion about "Nuestra Salud: Lesbianas Latinas Rompiendo Barreras."

The name of the six Spanish-language videos translates to "Our Health: Latina Lesbians Breaking Barriers."

Videographer Suzanne Newman and Dr. Teresa Cuadra at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York created the educational videos in 2000 to help Hispanic gay women take more control of their physical and mental well-being. Each Spanish-language video is between 13 and 18 minutes long and, so far, four have English subtitles. In recent months, they have been aired in cities nationwide as well as in Canada, France, and Central and South America.

INFO

LLEGÓ
Attn: Marta Alvarado
1420 K St., NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005
202-408-5380, ext. 106
www.llego.org

The videos highlight information about Latina lesbians and drug use, mental health, gynecology and preventive care, safer sex and sexually transmitted infections, and the importance of breast self-exams.

"We've been giving workshops for health care providers to provide sensitivity training and also holding events in communities so women can get together and talk about what's going on with their health," Newman said.

Earlier this year, the New York Community Trust, a foundation that funds health initiatives in New York City, awarded Cuadra and Newman $20,000 for the video project.

In Washington, LLEGÓ—the National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Organization—this summer began hosting peer-based discussions, or "platicas," to air the videos and generate conversations between participants about lesbian health. A different topic is highlighted each month at local meetings.

Noemi Perez, LLEGÓ's director of policy and public affairs, said "Nuestra Salud" is important because it provides specialized information for Latina immigrants, who often are undocumented, lesbian-identified, and speak only Spanish.

"There was a specific need for health information aimed at this unique segment of the Latino community," she said.

About 13 percent, or 35.3 million, of the U.S. population is Latino, based on recent U.S. Census figures. Perez said population estimates indicate that about 7 million Latinos nationwide are considered recent, undocumented immigrants.

"We also have information that tells us about 30 percent of Latina lesbians have been involved in abusive relationships," Perez said. "And access to preventive services for breast and other cancers are serious problems in the Latina community."

"Nuestra Salud" discussions provide a safe environment for Latina lesbians to visit and talk with each other, local project organizers said, as well as resource and referral information.

"The goal is to get [the videos] distributed to as many audiences and community-based organizations as possible," said Marta Alvarado, LLEGÓ's communications and information manager. "Not only just community members, but service providers in the United States, Central and South America as well."

The videos have been aired in Argentina, Colombia and Honduras. But in Lima, Peru, Newman said customs officials viewed and returned the tapes three times, essentially saying they were inappropriate for distribution there.

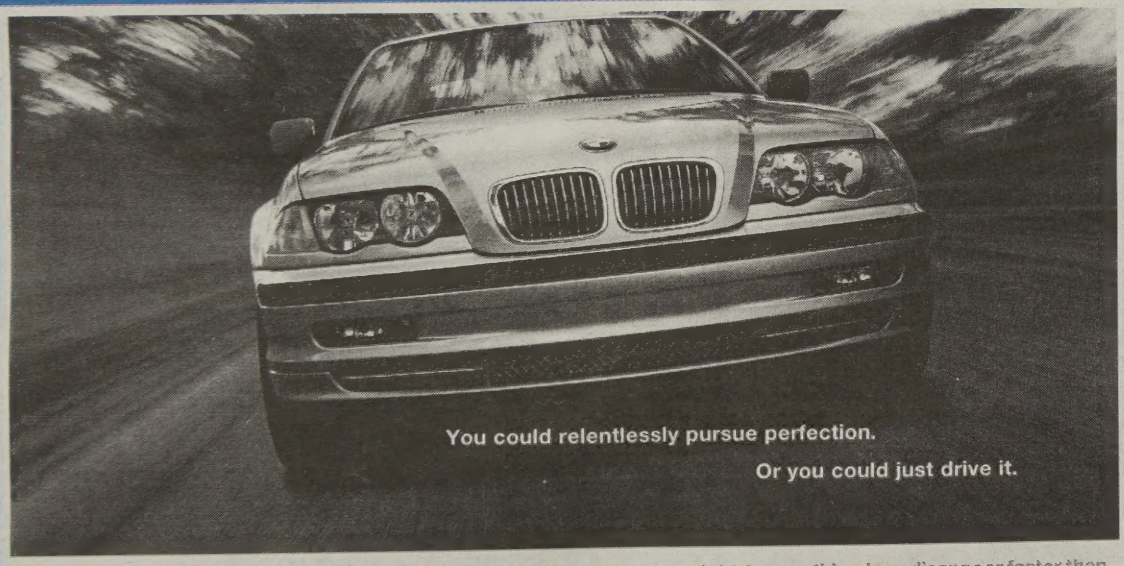
Earlier this year, at the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association's Lesbian Health Conference in San Francisco, LLEGÓ officials aired "Nuestra Salud" videos for health care providers about domestic violence and the importance of breast self-exams.

CLINT STEIB

New videos are being used to educate Latina lesbians about health concerns, according to Marta Alvarado, spokesperson for the National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Organization.

As a result, Alvarado said LLEGÓ has received requests for copies from doctors in cities as far away as Seattle who want to reach more Latina lesbians in their communities. The videos cost $200 for a set and less for individual tapes and are available on a sliding-scale basis.

LLEGÓ also conducted a pilot training with the videos in San Diego, Calif., in January, geared toward lesbians as well as professionals who provide medical and legal assistance.



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*MSRP including destination and handling charges. Price excludes license, registration, taxes and options. Actual price determined by your BMW center. As shown: 330i with Sport Package and metallic paint $36,235. Recent comparison test was conducted by *Car and Driver* and reported in the January 2001 issue. For more information, call 1-800-334-4BMW, or visit bmwusa.com ©2000 BMW of North America. The BMW name and logo are registered trademarks.

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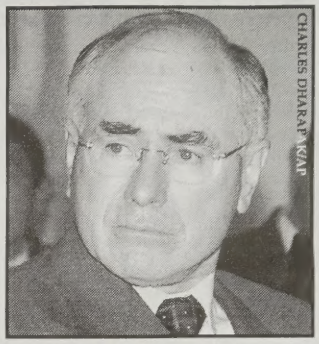
around the world

Aussie prime minister nixes gay marriage during interview

CANBERRA, Australia—Prime Minister John Howard confirmed Aug. 23 that his government will not introduce same-sex marriages to Australia, Reuters reported. "I don't believe in gay marriage," Howard told an auditorium of school children during a question and answer session that was broadcast on radio. "We should be completely tolerant and fair-minded about people's sexual preferences, but I don't believe homosexual relationships should be given the same place in our society such as traditional concepts as marriage." Howard also touched on gay themes during the interview when asked how he would respond if he had a gay child, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported. Howard cited answering the same question in 1996, saying, "I said I wouldn't love him any less, but I did go on to say I would be disappointed. ... I haven't met a parent yet who wants their children to grow up gay."



Australian Prime Minister John Howard told students he would be 'disappointed' to have a gay child and said he would not support same-sex unions.

Gay.com UK pressing government for Egypt warning

LONDON—Managers of the British version of the gay Internet site Gay.com are asking the site's 270,000 members to join in a move against Egypt. Gay.com UK users are being asked to sign a petition endorsing an attempt to have the Foreign Office issue a warning that Egypt is not safe for gays. The Gay.com UK action is part of the ongoing fallout against Egypt after 52 men were arrested in May. The men were at a Cairo disco frequented by gays. While Egyptian law does not specifically prohibit sex between men, the 52 have been accused of "immoral behavior" and are being tried in a State Security Court, whose judgments cannot be appealed. "This high profile case has been widely criticized by international human rights groups, yet still the Foreign Office hasn't revised guidelines for gay travelers to Egypt," reads a message issued by Gay.com UK. "Gay.com [UK] believes that the Government must act to protect the safety of gay people visiting the country, whilst drawing the attention of this case to the British public."

Brazil moves to pull Roche patent, continue free AIDS drugs

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazil's health minister has moved to strip Roche pharmaceutical's patent on the anti-AIDS drug Nelfinavir after negotiations failed to lower the price. Jose Serra said Aug. 22 he would use a clause in Brazil's 1997 intellectual property law that allows patents to be broken in cases of national emergency or when companies employ abusive pricing policies. The move marks the first time Brazil has stripped the patent on an anti-AIDS medication, despite previous threats to do so. Brazil, which has the highest number of people with AIDS in Latin America, distributes a "cocktail" of anti-AIDS drugs free to anyone who needs it. Last year, some 90,000 people received the drugs that would have cost each of them up to $15,000. Thanks largely to the drug handout, in just four years the number of AIDS deaths in Brazil has fallen from 11,024 to 4,136. The program has been hailed by doctors as a model for other developing countries, where few can afford expensive treatment.

Report finds 'widespread' gay bias in N. Ireland

ULSTER, Northern Ireland—A new report commissioned by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and compiled by staff at the University of Ulster finds that discrimination against gays is widespread, according to the *Irish Times*. The report, Enhancing the Rights of Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual People in Northern Ireland, offered examples of discrimination against gays in criminal law, employment, partnership, family life and healthcare. The authors of the report recommended that the British government, as well as the Northern Ireland Assembly, should pass laws to recognize same-sex couples as a key step to combating discrimination against gays.

W. Australia likely to recognize de facto gay couples

PERTH, Australia (AP)—De facto partnerships, including same-sex relationships, will be recognized in the same way as marriages under new property-rights legislation to be introduced in a state parliament. Western Australia state Attorney General Jim McGinty said Aug. 26 the legislation would allow those heterosexual and same-sex couples whose relationships are recognized by the state to have property disputes settled through the Family Court rather than having to go to the Supreme Court. "A significant and growing proportion of couples living together in Western Australia have no access to the Family Court if their relationship ends," McGinty said. "Instead, they must argue their case before the Supreme Court, resorting to principles of equity that can be expensive, time consuming, public and uncertain." Mcginty said the legislation, which will be introduced in Parliament this week, would also ensure all de facto couples can ask for alimony, just as married couples can.

—From staff and wire reports

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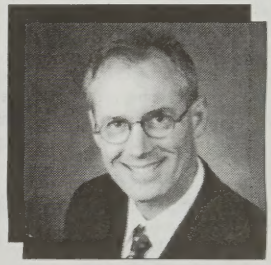

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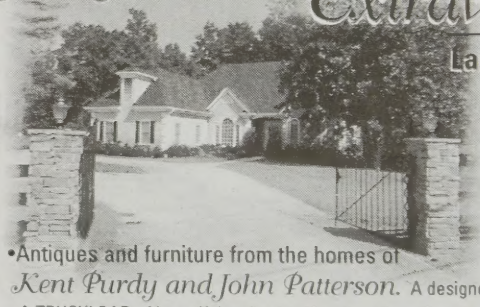

Labor Day Weekend
Friday, Aug. 31 - Monday, Sep. 03

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Friday evening kickoff: preview 6:30pm, auction to follow
Saturday morning: preview at 9:30am, auction to follow
Sunday : Open at 1:00pm, auction at 1:30pm
Monday, Labor Day: Preview at 9:30am, auction at 10:00am, finished at 1:00pm

There are some very unique items in this auction including: Chinese painted desk, a thirty-foot runner, palace sized Kirman (light color), and other beautiful hand-woven Oriental carpets. Louis IV replica pieces (very nice!). Bronze and porcelain mantle clock. Collector and decorative art. Armoires. Lovely side tables. Nice mahogany dining table and chairs. CHECK PRICES BEFORE YOU COME! Fine things and fun things. Too much to mention. Beginners welcome.

For Info: 404-874-2570. Auctioneer: Teresa McCormack GA #NR002765.
Buyer's Premium 10%. VISA, Am Ex, MC. Absolutely no returns, items sold as is/where is. Subject to omissions, errors and prior sale.

I walk because...

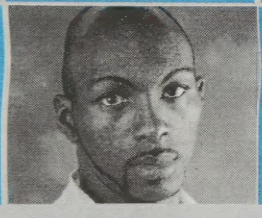
"AIDS is still a crisis. Period."

"I miss my Uncle Ronald."

"HIV doesn't discriminate. Neither should we."

"My little brother doesn't believe it can happen to him."

"I'm at risk, too!"



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Gay NJ student allegedly sent anti-gay e-mail to himself

EWING, N.J.—Ed Drago, treasurer of the College of New Jersey's gay student group, has been charged with giving false reports to the police and with harassment, the *New York Blade News* reported. Drago, a 25-year-old psychology major, was the supposed target last semester of anti-gay e-mails and notes. Authorities have concluded that Drago sent the threats to himself. The State Police High Tech Crimes Unit led the investigation, and the case has been turned over to the Mercer County prosecutor's office. A campus disciplinary hearing, meanwhile, will determine Drago's status as a student at the College of New Jersey. During the spring semester, the campus, situated five miles from Trenton, was shaken after Drago received death threats and hate messages. The threats spurred the campus to action, prompting an anti-hate rally, candlelight vigil and teach-in. "I regret the emotional toll on the college community, particularly on our gay community members," R. Barbara Gitenstein, the college's president, said in a written statement. "I would not want anyone to trivialize the seriousness of harassing and threatening behavior as a result of this case."

Gay bar stripper convicted in murder of IN couple

FRANKLIN, Ind. (AP)—A jury convicted a male stripper on Aug. 24 of murder in the stabbing deaths of two retired teachers. Jurors deliberated about three hours before finding Fernando Griffith guilty of two counts each of murder and felony murder, and one count each of arson and burglary. Griffith, an exotic dancer in an Indianapolis gay bar, was a friend of one of the victims, Lloyd Georges, and was also employed by his landscaping business. Griffith, 24, of Indianapolis, was charged in the May 2000 slayings of Georges, 60, and his wife, Judy, 58. Prosecutors said Lloyd Georges was bisexual and bought expensive gifts for Griffith after meeting him at a bar where Griffith danced, but there was no evidence of a sexual relationship between the two men.

Fugitive FL publisher of gay magazine arrested in IA

WILTON MANORS, Fla.—Florida prosecutors are attempting to extradite Gilbert Quijas, former publisher of the defunct gay-oriented *David Magazine*, from Iowa, according to Det. Daniel James of the Wilton Manors police department. James said that there is a Florida warrant for Quijas's arrest on charges of grand theft and forging worthless documents, or writing bad checks. Quijas disappeared in January 2000 as *David* headed for bankruptcy. The Louisa County, Iowa, attorney's office said Quijas was arrested in late July in that county, based on the Florida warrant. James, who has been involved with the case since early 2000, said Quijas is fighting the extradition request. Nevertheless, James added that he expects Quijas to be returned to Florida to stand trial as soon as next month. Other *David* magazines, either owned by Quijas or licensing the name and look, have come and gone in the past few years, according to a report in *Press Pass Q*. The only remaining magazine originally connected with Quijas is *David Atlanta*, which no longer maintains any such affiliation.

Mexican man seeks new trial for killing gay man in OK

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—A Mexican national on death row is seeking a new trial in a case that has gained national attention after a state psychiatrist recanted his testimony, saying new information shows Gerardo Valdez suffered from brain damage, paranoia and "homosexual panic" when he killed another man in 1989. Psychiatrist Cecil F. Mynatt said it is now his conclusion that Valdez was unable to control his own behavior or was "temporarily insane" when Valdez killed Juan Barron. "Mr. Valdez suffers from paranoia, specifically triggered in this instance by homosexual panic," Mynatt said. "Additionally, he is brain damaged and was under the influence of alcohol." Valdez admits killing Barron after Barron made advances toward him in a bar. Valdez took Barron home, forced him to strip, and shot him twice in the head before burning his body.

Suspects accuse each other of gay murder in KS

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—Witnesses at a preliminary hearing Aug. 21 said a beating and arson that left Marcell Eads dead began with him making sexual advances to two teenagers charged with killing him. The co-defendants, Zachary Steward and Brandon Boone, blamed each other for repeatedly striking Eads on his head, according to testimony. They also accused each other of setting the fire that killed Eads, and both took credit for trying to put out the fire. District Court Judge Joseph Bribiesca ruled there was enough evidence to charge the two with first-degree murder, aggravated arson, aggravated burglary and aggravated robbery. The judge also ruled that Boone, 16 when the crimes occurred, would be tried as an adult. Not guilty pleas have been entered for both men. Trial was set for Oct. 8. Under Kansas law, if it can be shown that someone was a crime victim because of his sexual orientation, a judge can use that to justify a harsher sentence.

—From staff and wire reports

For more news, visit www.sovo.com

Gays in Houston mobilize against anti-gay measure

Leader of Houstonians For Family Values accuses two gay activists of writing inflammatory letter attributed to him

by PENNY WEAVER

HOUSTON—The leader of the conservative Houstonians For Family Values has accused two prominent gay political activists of writing an anti-gay letter he says was falsely attributed to him.

At the same time, gay leaders are mobilizing to combat the group's movement to put a referendum on the November ballot asking Houston voters to prohibit the city from offering domestic partner benefits to the partners of gay city employees.

David Wilson, founder of HFFV, said he filed a complaint Aug. 22 with the Harris County District Attorney's Office and will offer a $5,000 reward to find out who wrote a letter that he says uses his forged signature.

He alleges that Annise Parker, the only openly gay member of the Houston City Council, and gay political consultant Grant Martin, who served as Parker's campaign manager, wrote or know who wrote a letter containing racist and anti-gay comments.

The letter bears Wilson's signature, which he said is forged.

"I know for sure they were behind the distribution of it," Wilson said of Parker and Martin. "If they did not personally write it, they know who did and they were in on it."

But both Parker and Martin said they were not involved in drafting the document.

"Categorically, I will deny writing the letter," said Martin, who is helping lead opposition to HFFV's referendum quest. "I did not write the letter. It's not the kind of politics that I would do or would even know how to do. Anybody that knows me knows that."

Parker also refuted Wilson's charges.

Wilson's Houstonians For Family Values has led a petition drive to put on the November ballot a referendum that would keep the city of Houston from offering benefits including health insurance to the domestic partners of gay employees.

In July, the City Council passed the anti-bias ordinance that outlaws discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, race, religion, age, gender or disability for the city of Houston's 23,000 employees.

Earlier this year, Brown proposed offering benefits to same-sex city employees, but in the face of opposition withdrew the proposal and instead pursued the non-discrimination ordinance.

The City Council vote in July ended three years of legal wrangling on the bias ordinance, though Wilson's ballot initiative is an effort to pre-empt further action on domestic partner benefits for city employees.

Conservative activist David Wilson has accused lesbian City Council member Annise Parker and gay political activist Grant Martin of drafting an anti-gay letter that has been attributed to him, a charge Martin and Parker deny.

In March 1998, Houston Mayor Lee Brown signed an executive order which banned discrimination in city government on the basis of sexual orientation. A City Council member filed an injunction against the order, alleging that it contradicted the public vote of 1985 that rejected a similar anti-bias measure.

The measure was held up in court until last June, when the Texas Supreme Court refused to take up the case, letting the executive order stand.

Last week, Wilson delivered to city officials what he said were nearly 30,000 signatures on petitions from voters in favor of putting the measure against same-sex health benefits on the fall ballot. The group must provide at least 20,000 signatures from registered voters in order to place the referendum before all Houston voters.

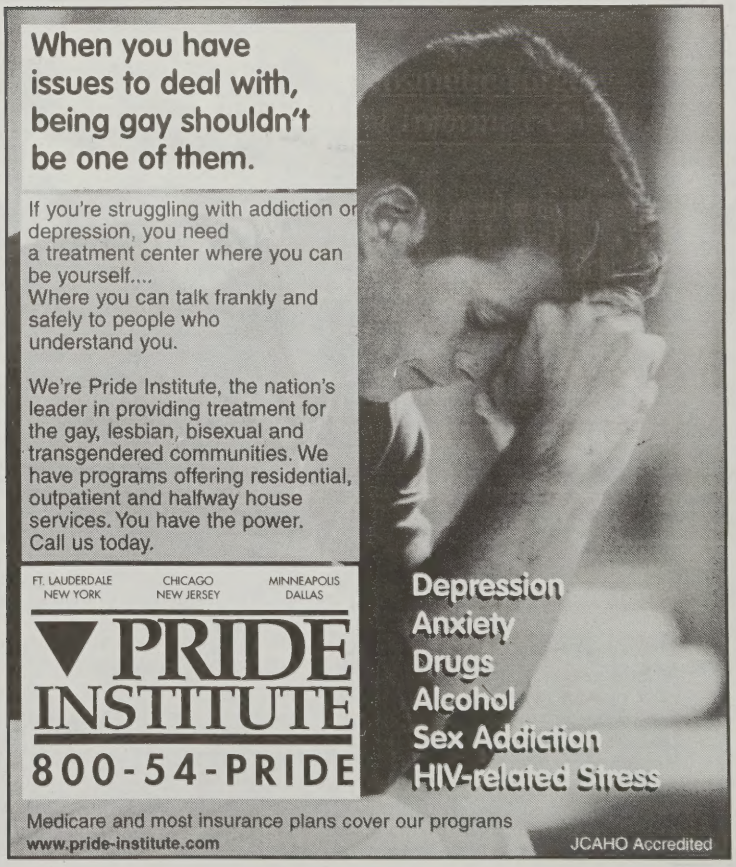
City Secretary Anna Russell said workers are in the midst of counting the signatures, collected on petitions that fill seven boxes.

Alejandro Morua, executive director and co-founder of Progressive Voters in Action, said this week that the group is working to raise awareness among gays to combat HFFV's referendum.

"If the community's really serious about defeating this measure, then we've got to get ... people out," Morua said. "The broader issue is that this is an up or down vote on gay people in the city."

Wilson said his group is not anti-gay, and he simply does not believe that anyone but a man and woman, if they are married in the eyes of Texas law, should receive health benefits paid for with taxpayer money.

"We're on the opposite sides of the issue but it doesn't make me anti-homosexual," Wilson said. "I was always raised to hate the sin and not the sinner. Our thrust is to protect the traditional family; it's not to go and try to take things away from another group."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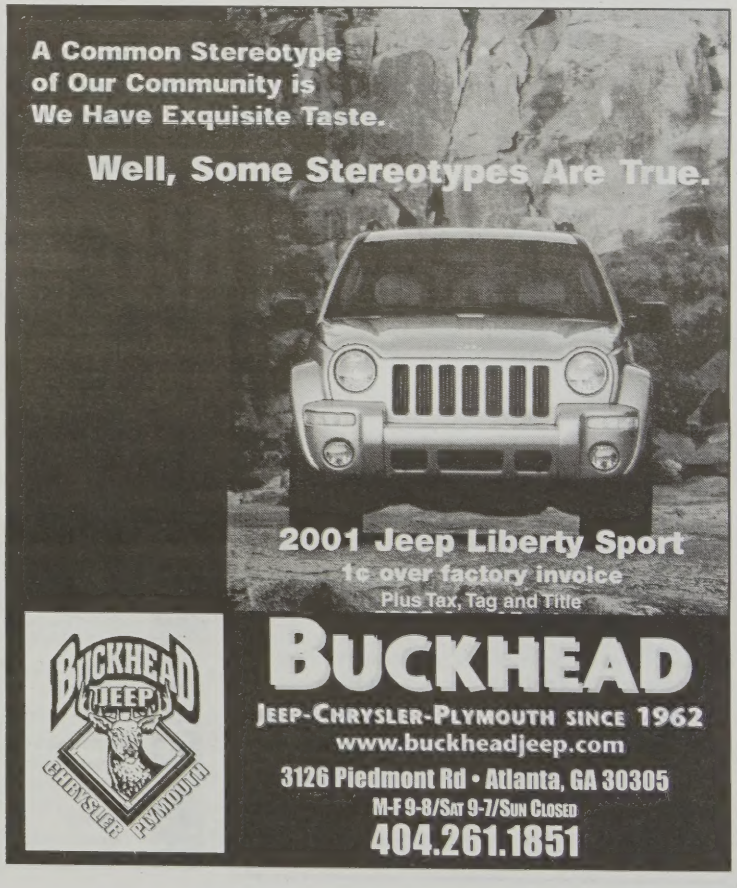
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Gay groups sit out debate on cloning

➢ Continued from Page 1

He founded the Clone Rights United Front, serves as spokesperson for the Reproductive Cloning Network and is a former spokesperson for the Human Cloning Network

While Wicker opposes the Raelians, who he calls "crazies" who have "hijacked" the cloning rights movement, he says he wants to be cloned himself and he is fighting for his "later-born twin's right to life."

And Ann Northrop, an activist and journalist who worked with the Institute for Gay & Lesbian Strategic Studies to help lead the campaign for gays to register on the Census, has also spoken in favor of cloning.

If scientists ever discover a "gay gene" that many heterosexual parents may want not want in their children, cloning could be necessary for the continued existence of gay people, she told *Gay Today*, an Internet gay publication that has devoted extensive coverage to human cloning.

"If nothing else, it may come down to us to perpetuate ourselves and we should be prepared to do that," Northrop said.

And even if the continued survival of gays isn't at stake, cloning could offer gay couples a way to reproduce without having to involve a third party.

"I think there is an appeal to that... especially for gay men," said Isabel Arango, a lesbian from St. Pete Beach, Fla., who has volunteered to give birth to Wicker's clone, although she says she wouldn't want to be cloned herself.

Just days before the birth of her second daughter by artificial insemination, Arango said she doesn't think cloning will remain a controversial, hotly contested issue for long.

"People don't accept it now, but as time goes by, it will become part of everyday life," she said. "Insemination wasn't widely accepted at first, and now everyone is doing it."

Gay groups sitting out

Cloning opponents, including many in the scientific community, insist the practice is far too dangerous and could produce disastrous results. Mainstream gay civil rights groups, however, haven't touched the cloning issue.

A bill to ban human cloning remains pending before Congress, but the Human Rights Campaign, which focuses much of its efforts on lobbying at the federal level, hasn't taken a position on it.

"It's not something on our radar screen," said HRC spokesperson David Smith. "We might have to look at it more carefully down the road, but for right now it is not something we are taking a position on."

And while several states—including California, Louisiana, Michigan and Rhode Island—have passed their own cloning bans, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, which focuses on local and state level issues, also hasn't taken a position

"We haven't had one discussion about it at all, and we are probably years away from forming a policy position on it," said David Elliot, NGLTF spokesperson.

To Wicker, that's proof positive that the gay rights movement is now run by "a bunch of highly paid mealy mouthed bureaucrats." He claims gay support from cloning will come "at the grassroots level," citing applause he says he has gotten, mostly from lesbians, when carrying pro-cloning signs in Gay Pride parades.

Yet at the same time, Wicker said that too close an association with gay rights may not help the cloning rights movement.

A gay activist since before Stonewall, Wicker nevertheless said he often avoids discussing his sexual orientation in interviews on cloning.

"I would much prefer to avoid mixing the issues," he said. "The ideal advertisement for cloning isn't a 63-year-old homosexual who wants to clone himself. It's an infertile couple that desperately wants to have a child. That is something society can identify with."

Special appeal to gays?

Many in American society appear already against human cloning, regardless of gay issues. In February, a poll conducted by CNN and *Time* showed 90 percent of those surveyed opposed human cloning.

But pro-cloning advocates say cloning as a means for becoming parents could have a special appeal to gay men and lesbians not available in other means of assisted reproduction.

"It's the chance to have a baby without involving the genes of a stranger," said Wicker, who views cloning as an issue of reproductive freedom. "Why should you have to involve a stranger's genes if you don't want to?"

Currently, lesbians who have children through artificial insemination end up with a child who is genetically related to the sperm donor as well as the lesbian mother who supplied the egg.

Gay men who reproduce through surrogate mothers have a child genetically related to the mother as well as the gay father who donated the sperm.

Cloning—accomplished by removing the DNA-containing nucleus from a donor egg and replacing it with a cell from the person being cloned—would offer gays and other the chance to have children without the outside influence.

And further down the road, some scientists say, cloning could even offer gay and lesbian couples the chance to have a child genetically related to both of them.

Last year, Dr. Calum MacKellar of the University of Edinburgh suggested it would be "theoretically possible" to replace the nucleus of an egg cell with a sperm cell—which, like the egg cell, would contain only half of the genetic material necessary to make a human.

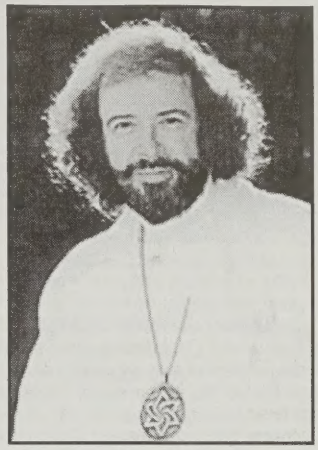
Next, the "male egg" could be fertilized with sperm.

The resulting embryo would still need to implanted in a surrogate mother for gestation, but it would have two genetic fathers. And in a similar process, the genetic material from one woman's egg could be inserted into another woman's egg to create an offspring with two genetic mothers.

The Raelians, the UFO-based religion that claims to have dozens of surrogate mothers waiting to carry the first human clone, hit on this theory in marketing their for-profit cloning company, Clonaid, to gay men.

Last October, Rael—spiritual leader of the group—held a press conference in San Francisco to

➢ Continued on Page 15



Rael—spiritual leader of the Raelians, a movement that cites 55,000 members and is building an embassy to welcome UFOs to Earth—held a San Francisco press conference last year to discuss how cloning will allow gays to have children.

Same-sex reproduction? Dolly, the cloned sheep, was created when a cell from a female sheep was implanted in an enucleated egg cell from another female sheep.

Cloning 101

• **No sperm needed:** Human reproduction occurs when a female egg cell is fertilized by a male sperm cell, resulting in an embryo with DNA that is a combination of both parents.

In the most basic form of cloning, the nucleus of the egg cell, which contains the DNA, is replaced with a cell from the animal or human being cloned. With the help of a jolt of electricity, the cell then begins dividing, creating an embryo genetically related only to the replacement cell, not the egg cell.

• **From sheep to human:** Scientists say it took 277 tries to produce the first mammal clone, Dolly the sheep, born in Great Britain in 1997. Given the error rate with sheep, Ian Wilmut, the scientist who created Dolly, told a science conference that "we can expect late abortions, dead children and surviving but abnormal children" with human cloning.

• **First clone destroyed:** Scientists at Massachusetts-based Advanced Cell Technology say that in 1999 they created a cloned human male embryo, but they never planned to create a live birth. Instead of being implanted in the womb of a surrogate mother, the embryo was destroyed after 14 days.

• **Cloning humans easier?:** A study released this month by scientists at Duke University Medical Center suggests human cloning could be easier than animal cloning, because people don't have a genetic defect implicated in producing oversized offspring.

"There are going to be other things that potentially go awry. You're not home free, assuming that you wanted to do this, but you're getting closer," Randy Jirtle, one of the Duke researchers, told the Associated Press.

• **Clone baby in 2003?:** Scientists Panos Zavos, from Kentucky, and Dr. Severino Antinori, from Italy, told an Aug. 7 meeting of the National Academy of Sciences that they plan to clone a human being, and they expect the first cloned human baby to be born in 2003. Almost 30 other international scientists at the meeting denounced the project, saying human cloning remains too dangerous.

• **Bans underway:** The Food & Drug Administration has prohibited human cloning in the United States, and the U.S. Congress could soon ban cloning. The Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001 passed the U.S. House of Representatives on July 31; the Senate is expected to consider the bill when it reconvenes in September, and President Bush has already stated he will support and sign it.

The bill provides for penalties of up to 10 years in prison and a $1 million fine for anyone who performs or attempts to perform human cloning, participates in an attempt, or ships, receives or imports an embryo created by cloning.

In August, French and German officials also called for a worldwide treaty banning human cloning.

INFO

Clone Rights United Front
www.clonerights.com

Reproductive Cloning Network
www.reproductivecloning.net

Human Cloning Foundation
www.humancloning.org

Clonaid
www.clonaid.com

Cloning may appeal to gays

➢ Continued from Page 14

explain how cloning "will allow gay couples to have a child who can inherit the genetic traits of one or both parents such as is possible with heterosexual couples."

But the process would be more difficult than the Raelians have let on.

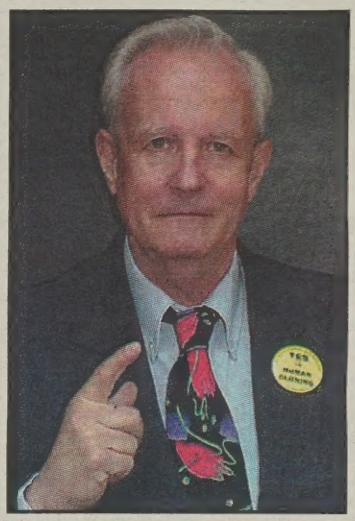
In basic cloning, the embryo would get a complete set of genetic material from the person being cloned, because a cell with the complete DNA—say a skin cell or, like in the case of Dolly the sheep, a breast cell—would be inserted in place of the egg's nucleus to begin the process.

Yet in standard reproduction, the egg and sperm cells each provide half the genetic material. The male and female halves are like two sides of a zipper that join to create a complete set of DNA, and successful development requires "imprinting"—that can only come from the egg's female DNA.

That means trying to unite the created "male" egg with male sperm would be "like trying to close a zipper with two left sides," Wicker said.

For that reason, Wicker has denounced Clonaid's Internet advertisements for human cloning at a cost of $200,000 as "fraud" targeted at gays, although he believes the technology to produce a child from same-sex parents will one day be available.

"I believe it will one day be possible to fly to Jupiter, but that doesn't mean it is fair to start selling tickets on the first space ship flight to Jupiter now," he said.



Early gay rights activist Randolfe Wicker is now 'the face of cloning fervor in the U.S.,' according to *Time Magazine*.

Clonaid Science Director Brigette Boisselier was not available for two scheduled interviews about the Raelians' outreach to gays.

Gay.com change gets flak

by WILL O'BRYAN

To read the hundreds of posts to the Gay.com message boards of late, it might seem that the sky was falling.

"I'm a member, and this is AWFUL!" is echoed by, "I second all the frustration with this ridiculous change."

So what's behind all the fuss? Gay.com instituted some changes to its online chat systems, which took effect in the middle of the month. Now, registered members complain, it's more difficult to change their "bio-lines," a bit of supposedly self-descriptive text.

The change became impossible for guests who never registered with the Gay.com. There is no cost to register.

"The way the system was allowed guests and members to revise their chat bio lines at will," explained Rhona Berenstein, vice president of client and customer services at PlanetOut Partners Inc., Gay.com's parent company. "The current system allows members to edit chat bio-lines through their account page, but does not allow non-members to edit either their chat name or chat bio-line. In the near future, we will be providing members with an editable chat bio feature that matches the way things were originally."

The reasoning for the changes, said Berenstein, is twofold. First, Gay.com is attempting to weed out "ad-bots" from the chat rooms. The so-called ad-bots appear to be fellow chat users, but are really just links to advertising, and Gay.com regularly fields complaints from genuine users disgruntled by ad-bots sitting on valuable chat-room real estate.

Second, the changes were designed to motivate "guest" users of the system to take the time to complete the free registration.

M. Scott Tatum, a Gay.com user from Austin, Texas, was one of the hundreds who posted a complaint about the changes.

"Essentially what it comes down to is that people are becoming frustrated with Gay.com on a whole," Tatum, who has served on a Gay.com user survey panel, said via e-mail.

Berenstein said she was surprised by the ferocity of some of the messages attacking the changes. She emphasized that registered members will soon be able to quickly edit their bio-lines, as they have in the past.

INFO

Gay.com
Online Partners.com Inc.
P.O. Box 500
San Francisco, CA 94104-0500
call: 415-644-8000
fax: 415-644-7980
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Holy Cross MCC. Sundays, 10 am. Bible Study Wednesdays, 7 pm. 415 N. Alcaniz St. 850-433-8528. holymcc@blackiris.com.

georgia

athens

Our Hope MCC. Sundays, 11 am. Presbyterian Student Center, 1250 S. Lumpkin St. 706-202-3723

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens. Sundays, worship 11 am. 706-546-7914

north georgia

Georgia Mountains Unitarian-Universalist Church, Dahlonega. Sundays, 11 am. Hwy 19 at Park St. 706-864-0661

Nacoochee Presbyterian Church, Sautee. Sundays, 10 am. 706-878-2226

Mountain Light Unitarian Universalist Church, Ellijay. Sundays, 10:30 am. 3423 Turniptown Rd. 706-636-4935. www.mluuc.org

atlanta

All Saints Episcopal. Sundays, 8 am, 9 am, 11:15 am and 5:30 pm with Holy Communion. 634 W. Peachtree. 404-881-0835

All Saints MCC. Sundays, 10:50 am, Sunday school 10 am. 2352 Bolton Road N.W. 404-296-9822 or 404-605-7140. www.allsaintsmcc.com

Atlanta Church of Religious Science. Sundays, 10:30 am. Rich Auditorium of the Arts Center, 1280 Peachtree Street. 404-355-3767

Atlanta Friends. Quaker services, 10 am. 404-377-2474

Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Sunday Eucharist, 8:30 & 11 am. Mon.-Fri. 12:20 pm. 48 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SW. 404-521-1866

Christ Covenant MCC. Sundays, worship 11 am; Queer Spirit, 7 pm. Wednesdays, dinner and prayer, 6 pm, choir rehearsal and ministry teams, 7 pm. 109 Hibernia Ave. 404-373-2933

Circle of Friends. Tuesdays, 7 pm. Group meets to share personal stories of faith and spirituality. 770-937-5035

Circle of Grace Community Church. Sundays, 6 pm. 404-624-1140

Circle of Love Fellowship of Atlanta. Sundays, 10 am. Wednesdays, Bible study, 7:30 pm. 778 Rays Rd. Ste. 108. 770-469-6419

Clifton Presbyterian Church. Sundays, 11 am. Wednesdays, Bible study 7:30 pm. 369 Connecticut Ave. 404-373-3253

Congregation Bet Haverim. Second Fridays, vegetarian/dairy potluck dinner 7:30 pm. All other Fridays, Shabat Service, 7:30 pm. Sundays, 9:30-11:45 am. Atlanta Friends Meeting House, 701 W Howard Ave. 404-607-0054 or CBH@mindspring.com

Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. Sundays, 11 am. & 6:30 pm. Wednesdays, Young adult Bible Study, 7:45 pm. 1026 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-875-7591

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany. Sundays, 8:45 and 11:15 am, 6 pm. 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-373-8338

First Church of Religious Science. Sundays, 11 am. 3025 Maple Dr. NE, Buckhead. 404-233-2061

First Existentialist Congregation. Sundays, Celebration of life, 11 am. Full Moon Rituals. 404-378-5570 or e-cong@mindspring.com

First MCC of Atlanta. Sundays, worship 11 am Wednesdays, worship 7 pm. 1379 Tullie Rd. 404-325-4143

Friends Worshipping Together Through Christ. Sundays, 11 am. Days Inn Conference Rm. 239, 5990 Western Hills Dr., Norcross. Pastor Dana Worsham, 770-934-9452

Gentle Spirit Christian Church. Sundays, 7 pm. 404-522-1444

Inman Park United Methodist Church. Sundays, 10:55 am. 404-522-9322

Integrity/Atlanta. The gay and lesbian ministry of the Episcopal church. Second Fridays, 7 pm. All Saints' Episcopal Church, Atlanta. 770-642-3183.

Marietta/Kennesaw Mountain Church of Religious Science. Sundays, 10:30 am. 770-656-8467

Meditations for the Millennium. Tuesdays, 7 pm. Introductory workshop in Eastern philosophies. 404-627-8708

Metaphysical Group. Mondays. Come meet your spiritual family! 404-250-7775

New Church at Unity Midtown. Sundays, 11 am. 404-874-1937

New Covenant Community Church. Sundays, 6 pm. Atlanta's only gay and lesbian friendly Charismatic/Pentecostal church meets in Virginia-Highlands Baptist Church sanctuary. 404-881-6336. www.NewCovenantAtlanta.com

North Point Church of Religious Science. Sundays, 10:30 am. Homewood Suites, Davis Dr. 770-569-8601

Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Sundays, 10:30 am. 770-955-1408

Oakhurst Baptist Church. "Every member a minister." Sundays, 11 am. 222 East Lake Drive, Decatur. 404-378-3225. www.oakhurstbaptist.org

Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church. First Sundays, combined worship 10 am. All but first Sundays, contemporary worship 9 am, traditional worship, 11 am. 404-627-2216

Pilgrimage United Church of Christ. Sundays, worship 10 am. Wednesdays, casual, alternative worship 7 pm. 3755 Sandy Plains Rd. 770-971-0007

Rameshori Buddhist Center. Classes offered throughout the Atlanta area. www.rameshori.com. 404-321-7737

Redefined Faith Worship Center. Third Sundays, 11 am. GSU Student University Center, corner Gilmer and Courtland streets. 743 Virginia Ave. 404-872-2133

Snellville United Methodist Church. Sundays, New Freedom Fellowship for Recovering Addicts, 11 am. 770-929-8505 or 770-484-6346

Spirituality & Wellness Discussion. Last Thursday of the month, 7 pm. Led by Chaplain Lauralyn Bellamy. Phoenix & Dragon Bookstore, 5531 Roswell Rd. 404-255-5207

St. Aelred's Old Catholic Church. Saturdays Vigil Mass, 5:30 pm. Virginia Highland Baptist Church basement chapel. 404-508-9128

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. Sundays, 8 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm. 1790 LaVista Rd. 404-634-3336

St Luke's Episcopal Church. Sundays, 8 am, 10 am & 6 pm. 404-873-7600

St. Mark United Methodist Church. Sundays, worship 8:45 am and 11:15 am. Wednesday dinner, 6:00 pm, program 6:45 pm. Corner of Peachtree and 5th. 404-873-2636

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. Sundays, 8:30 am, 10:30 am Holy Eucharist. 4755 North Peachtree Road. 770-455-6523, www.stpat.net.

Trinity Church of Religious Science. Sundays, 11 am. 430 W. Trinity Place. 404-296-6064

Trinity United Methodist Church. Sundays, 10:45 am. 404-659-6236

Truth Center MCC. Sundays, 3 pm. Airport Holiday Inn, I-85 at Virginia Ave. exit. 770-951-1380

United Church of Christ-Central Congregational. Sunday school 10 am; Sunday services 9 & 11 am. 2676 Clairmont Rd. NE Atlanta 30329-2741. 404-633-4505

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. Sundays, 9:30 and 11:15 am. 1911 Cliff Valley Way (off I-85 N Access Road). 404-634-5134. www.uuca.org

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett County. Sundays, 11 am. 770-717-7913

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marietta. Sundays, All-inclusive service, 10:30 am. 770-528-9542

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of North Metro Atlanta. Sundays, 9:45, 11:30 am. Summer service 10:30 am only June thru mid August. 11420 Crabapple Rd. 770-992-3949

Unity Fellowship of Christ Church. Sundays, 3 pm. 404-752-5030

Virginia-Highland Baptist Church. Sundays, Liturgical worship with Holy Communion, 11 am. 404-873-1355

augusta

MCC Augusta. Sundays, 11 am and 7 pm. 311 7th Street. 706-722-6454

Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta. Sundays, 10:30 am. 3501 Walton Way. 706-733-7939

columbus

Anchored in Christ Ministries. First Sundays 11 am, Sunday night worship 6 pm, Wednesday nights 7 pm. 3802-B 2nd Ave, corner of 38th and 2nd Ave. AnchoredInChrist@aol.com, 706-653-1488

Fellowship of Love Christian Church. Sundays, worship 2 pm, bible study 7 pm. Thursdays, bible study 7 pm. 1442 Double Churches Rd. 706-569-6436

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbus. Sundays, 10:30 am. 1442 Double Churches Rd. 706-660-1442

macon

St. Barnabas MCC. Sundays, 6:30 pm. Last Sundays, potluck after services. High Street Unitarian Church, 1085 High Street. 912-722-0057

savannah

Unitarian Universalist Church of Savannah, Troup Square. Sundays, 11 am. 912-234-0980

Gay priest remains in good standing with Catholic Church

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind. (AP)—A Roman Catholic priest who recently announced from the pulpit that he is gay said homosexuality should not be equated with promiscuity or seen as something shameful. "We should talk about it in healthy and constructive ways," Rev. Raymond Schafer told the *Courier-Journal* of Louisville, Ky. "I've said nothing that was [different from] Catholic Church teaching. It's just that I said it honestly and very directly, and we don't do that very often." The Catholic Church teaches that being gay is not sinful but that same-gender sexual behavior is sinful. Schafer, 46, made his announcement earlier this month in sermons and in the church bulletin distributed during three Masses at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Jeffersonville. Susan Borcherts, spokesperson for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, said Archbishop Daniel Buechlein has long known that Schafer is gay and that he remains in good standing as a priest.

Judge asked to settle dispute between church leaders

GREENBELT, Md. (AP)—A federal judge is expected in the next several weeks to settle a dispute within the Episcopal Church between the bishop of Washington and a conservative priest leading a Maryland congregation. U.S. District Court Judge Peter J. Messitte took the rare step Aug. 23 of hearing motions in a lawsuit filed by Acting Bishop Jane Holmes Dixon that seeks to oust Rev. Samuel Edwards as pastor of Christ Episcopal Church in Accokeek. In his writings, Edwards has said the Episcopal Church was "hellbound" because of its growing acceptance of homosexuality and its practice of ordaining women. The court case hinges on whether Dixon has the power to remove Edwards from the suburban Washington church. Edwards has continued to preach in defiance of Dixon, ignoring her order that he leave three months ago. At the core of the struggle is a growing dissatisfaction among conservative church leaders with a denomination they say has strayed from the traditional beliefs of its parent church, the 77-million member worldwide Anglican Communion.

Acting Bishop Jane Holmes Dixon has asked a federal judge to solve an Episcopal Church dispute in Maryland.

Chinese minister urges more tolerance for gay people

HONG KONG—Rev. Fung Chi-wood on Aug. 20 encouraged religious groups to alter their attitudes about homosexuality and stop treating it like a sin. The *South China Morning Post* reported that Chi-wood, a former Democrat legislator, told a Legislative Council subcommittee researching the need for legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation that the church was guilty of intolerance toward gays. "I hope the government has more education about what homosexuality is," he said. Dr. Liu Kam-moon of the Kau Yan Church Tsung Tsin Mission told the panel he was concerned about gay people having the legal right to adopt children because this might have an adverse affect on a child's development. Noel Chen, an executive committee member of a gay civil rights group known as Rainbow Action, said the Housing Department there discriminates against gays. Joseph Cho Man-kit of the Tongshi Culture Society of the Chinese University said passers-by criticize him and his partner when they hold hands in public. "We are just asking for something we should have the right to do," he said.

Catholic leader in Poland denounces gays

CZESTOCHOWA, Poland—The head of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland told a congregation of 250,000 people that birth control, gay partnerships, genetic engineering on humans, and euthanasia lead to social calamity, the *Polish News Bulletin* reported. "In the parliamentary election, Catholics should not vote for those who agree to abortion, same-sex partnerships, genetic manipulation, and euthanasia," said Primate of Poland Cardinal Jozef Glemp. He spoke during a sermon in Czestochowa that drew Sejm Speaker Maciej Plazynski and other parliamentarians. Glemp said the Church must not be neutral in its ethical and evangelic approaches used with believers in Christ.

U.K. police apologize for probe of church leader

LONDON—Metropolitan Police apologized Aug. 17 to a churchwarden at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, for its "heavy-handed" investigation of a harassment campaign against a gay vicar in Britain's wealthiest parish. The *Times of London* reported Capt. Ian Powe, 68, was locked in a police cell for six hours after being arrested for allegedly sending harassing letters to Rev. Neil Follett, who is openly gay. But Powe was never charged with a crime in the case. The ordeal began when Follett left St. Paul's vicarage after announcing he was gay and planned to separate from his wife. Church officials asked Powe to inform Right Rev. Richard Chartres, bishop of London, of any developments in the case. A friend told Powe that Follett was staying with a male accountant. Powe telephoned the firm where the accountant worked to check the story's accuracy. Shortly afterwards, a threatening letter and an anonymous fax arrived at the accountant's office that described Follett as a "liar, a hypocrit [sic], a dirty, filthy pervert." The letter and fax were not traced to anyone.

—From staff and wire reports

religion report

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EDITORIAL

Long live Jesse in a strange, new world

by CHRIS CRAIN

It has been said before that sometimes what progress most requires is a few good funerals.

Jesse Helms, who turns 80 in October and is plagued with medical problems, has not yet obliged us with his overdue passing from this earth, but he at least announced last week his plan to retire from the United States Senate when his current term expires in January 2003.

The senior senator from North Carolina will leave office after a 30-year career marked by an unusually virulent resistance to social progress in practically any form. He has used the Senate's outdated privilege system to hold hostage so many appointments and federal appropriations that he earned the nickname "Senator No." Often times, the victimized job candidate or federal program was only a pawn for some other form of leverage he was applying to the White House (whether it was in the hands of Democrats or Republicans, though Helms' pressure came always from the right).

But "Senator No" would just as easily describe the negative worldview of a man whose public life has been marked by his attempt to single-handedly apply the brakes to social change that he viewed as dangerously astray from our heritage as a country established by and for straight white Christian men.

If wishing for Jesse Helms' death seems a bit extreme, consider how unjust and tragic it is that he has outlived by so many years the gay men he declared the deserving victims of AIDS. It was Helms who inhumanely shortened so many of their lives, resisting AIDS funding because he believed the best way to end the epidemic was to "stop the disgusting and immoral activities that continue to spread the disease."

In a 1988 floor debate over an AIDS appropriations measure, Helms said of a person with AIDS, "If they had a father who was worth a damn, he would not have gotten AIDS."

Helms' homophobia wasn't limited to gay men, either. In 1993, when President Clinton nominated Roberta Achtenberg to a post in the Department of Housing & Urban Development, Helms told the press he would oppose her appointment because she was a "damn lesbian"—plain and simple. He later amplified the record to indicate Achtenberg was "not your garden-variety lesbian—she's a militant activist, mean lesbian, working her whole career to advance the homosexual agenda."

Mainstream press accounts have largely skipped over such outrageous pronouncements, most often noting only in passing that Helms was a staunch opponent of gay rights measures. While true as far they go, such characterizations whitewash the political career of a man who regularly crossed the line into ugly prejudice.

To be sure, many U.S. senators have joined Helms in opposing civil rights protections for gays—some because they resist most forms of business regulation, some out of sheer political calculation, and some because they worry about American litigiousness. These and other objections to gay rights laws may be wrong-headed or shallow, but they do not qualify as bigoted.

Jesse Helms' public policy record, by way of contrast, is quite clearly built upon outright animosity toward homosexuality and gays themselves. Just three years ago, he said of gay men and lesbians, "These people are intellectually dishonest in just everything they say and do. They start by pretending that it is just another form of love. It's sickening."

David Broder, often called the dean of the Washington press corps, took the media to task this week for going soft on Helms' unabashed racism and race-baiting. While Broder did take note of Helms' anti-gay record, the column stopped short of outing the senator's homophobic past and the reluctance of press accounts on his pending retirement to deal with his hateful anti-gay rhetoric.

Perhaps when the media watchdogs at the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation have finished ridding the cultural landscape of dangerous offerings like "Jay & Silent Bob Strike Back," they will turn their attention to more sober issues like the "straightwash" of Jesse Helms by mainstream print and broadcast journalists.

In the meantime, as we cheer Helms' passage from the Senate, if not from this life, we can take special comfort from the fact that he will live out his days in a North Carolina that barely resembles the beloved homeland of his idealized youth.

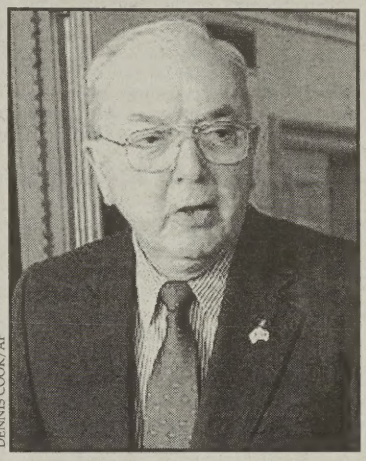
In Raleigh, N.C., the state capitol where Helms first made his name as a conservative firebrand doing radio commentary, there is a thriving gay community that rivals Charlotte.

More than 16,000 gay couples were reported in North Carolina in the 2000 census, ranking the state in the top half nationwide. Every single one of North Carolina's 100 counties reported at least some same-sex households, from just two in rural Tyrell County to 2,049 in Raleigh-Durham.

Even in Union County, N.C., where Jesse's hometown of Monroe is the county seat, there are no fewer than 147 households where two men can be presumed to be engaging in "disgusting" homosexual sex, and another 115 headed up by "damn lesbians."

And while Jesse rocks on the front porch back in Monroe, furiously wondering which of his neighbors might be "weak, morally sick wretches" of the homosexual variety, he can also put this in his pipe and smoke it:

The generation that will soon be running this country views homosexuality and even that social catastrophe known as gay marriage in a far more positive light than do his fellow seventy-somethings. A poll released this week indicates that two-thirds of high school seniors believe gay couples should have the right to legally wed, and almost as many (68 percent) support adoption by gay couples.



DENNIS COOK/AP

Even in Union County, N.C., where Jesse grew up, there are no fewer than 147 households where two men engage in 'disgusting' homosexual sex, and another 115 headed up by 'damn lesbians.'

That's a higher level of support for gays and our issues than even among the godless, hippie Baby Boomers and the wayward, slacker X-ers.

If Jesse Helms came to Congress 30 years ago preaching about the moral decay of this country, what must he think of the world today? Even Ellen De-Generate is getting a second chance at a sitcom. Yep, here's hoping Jesse lives another 80 years.

Corrections

In the Aug. 23 "On Stage" column in the New Orleans edition, *Times-Picayune* theater reviewer David Cuthbert was incorrectly referred to as gay; he is not gay.

Also in the "Action Alert" that appeared in the Aug. 23 issue of *Southern Voice*, Laurie Antweather was incorrectly identified as a publicist for Lions Gate Films, distributor of the movie "All Over the Guy." She is a longtime movie watchdog, and has no affiliation with Lions Gate, which has declined comment on the controversy surrounding promotional posters for the film.

An article in the Aug. 9 issue of *Southern Voice* contained an incorrect total for the number of same-sex "unmarried partner" households reported in Tennessee on the 2000 Census. The state reported 10,189 same-sex "unmarried partner" homes, an increase of 660 percent over the 1990 Census.

Southern Voice regrets the errors.

LETTERS

Pick a polite way to turn down cruisers

To the Editor:

Apparently Stephen Fallon ("One-way cruising turns this guy off," op-ed, Aug. 16) has never been cruised by an attractive guy who happened to not be his type, and who didn't know how to get the hint of his disinterest.

I can assure him that there are plenty of nice-looking gay men who don't follow his rules of cruising. This is not just restricted to the "spandex crowd," as he puts it.

Fallon's first mistake was to make fun of guys with chubby cheeks who wear spandex, and guys who have furry bodies. And I'm sure the list is longer; he just left out a few other judgments and superficial swipes. He used his column to put down those guys in the gym who don't have an all-American dress code of gym wear or who don't have bodies he finds attractive.

I know who Fallon is: He's one of those guys who only talks to the attractive gym members. And he's the first guy in line, licking his chops to come up with a clever line to impress the hot number who just joined up.

I bet he has never said hello to that shy, overweight, looks-impaired guy who always uses the treadmill in the back row. Why doesn't he try introducing himself and stop worrying about who's cruising him.

I don't wear spandex, and I'm neither fat nor furry, And yeah, I get cruised. Sure, sometimes by a person I have no attraction to, and if it is blatant, it can be disconcerting.

I have a simple solution: Don't look back and keep judgments to yourself. We don't have to make fun of others to get our point across.

I've actually had guys pull up into my driveway while I was cutting the lawn. Unlike Fallon, I was always polite and never made reference to their chubby cheeks squeezing out the bottom of their teeny spandex shorts.

Randy Chumbley
Atlanta

Now gay men complain about shower cruising

To the Editor:

Stephen Fallon's sad little essay, "One-way cruising turns this guy off" (op-ed, Aug. 16), was eerily reminiscent of the conservative side of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" controversy, which boiled down to complaining that the wrong type of people might be looking at soldiers in the shower.

Most adults, straight and gay, handle praise and even unwanted cruising with far more grace than this mediocre narcissist. Fallon should instead talk with the people who offend him with their attentions and share with them what he clumsily shared with the readers of *Southern Voice*.

It will probably end the problem because few people find very attractive those who are so self-serving they feel compelled to whine about this kind of thing.

Joe Lillich
Atlanta

Proposed TennCare split would harm PWHs, PWAs

To the Editor:

The caption accompanying your Aug. 9 story on TennCare ("State wants authority to divide TennCare to save costs," Mid South news) was incorrect.

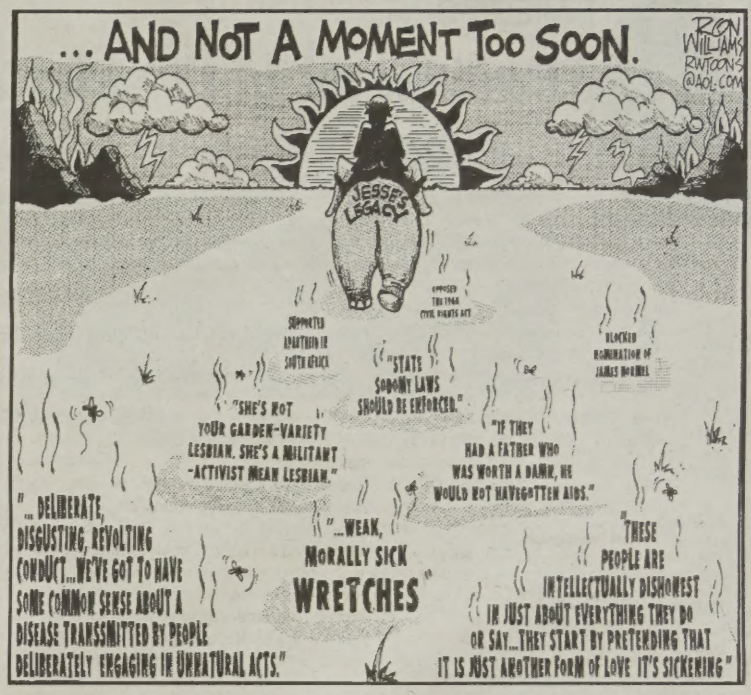
People with HIV/AIDS in the program would be affected by the proposed splitting of TennCare into two parts. Indeed, many PWHs are already being charged premiums and medication co-payments. These would continue and be expanded under the changes proposed by our governor, if people with HIV qualified for the program as "uninsurables." These changes potentially include a reduction in health benefits along with those increased charges.

Ironically, many states (including Georgia) have proposed pilot programs under the terms of the Work Incentives Act to do what TennCare achieved on a grand scale seven years ago—namely, access to health care for people with catastrophic and chronic illnesses who had no insurance. TennCare has done so cost effectively and at a significant savings to the state. Nonetheless, the program is falsely portrayed as the source of our current budget crisis.

The *Southern Voice* story simply parroted the state line, offering no critical perspective and actually providing inaccurate and misleading information. This is a critical issue for people with HIV disease in Tennessee. We don't need this kind of poor reportage lulling us into complacency on the issue.

Joseph Interrante
Executive Director
Nashville CARES

Editor's note: The article in question was a newsbrief taken from the Associated Press wire service.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"STATE SODOMY LAWS SHOULD BE ENFORCED."
"SHE'S NOT YOUR GARDEN-VARIETY LESBIAN. SHE'S A MILITANT -ACTIVIST MEAN LESBIAN."
"IF THEY HAD A FATHER WHO WAS WORTH A DAMN, HE WOULD NOT HAVE GOTTEN AIDS."
"... DELIBERATE, DISGUSTING, REVOLTING CONDUCT... WE'VE GOT TO HAVE SOME COMMON SENSE ABOUT A DISEASE TRANSMITTED BY PEOPLE DELIBERATELY ENGAGING IN UNNATURAL ACTS."
"...WEAK, MORALLY SICK WRETCHES"
"THESE PEOPLE ARE INTELLECTUALLY DISHONEST IN JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING THEY DO OR SAY... THEY START BY PRETENDING THAT IT IS JUST ANOTHER FORM OF LOVE IT'S SICKENING"

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

Not-For-Profit Motive
©2001 by Alison Bechdel
8/15
370
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?! SHE HAS A KID!
...AND THAT SLIGHT, CAPTIVATING GAP BETWEEN HER FRONT TEETH.
MEANWHILE, DOWNSTAIRS...
I FEEL DIRTY! IS IT A BRIBE? HUSH MONEY? BLOOD MONEY?
SIGN IT RIGHT OVER TO THE SHELTER AND YOU WON'T HAVE TO TROUBLE YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD ABOUT IT.
GIVE IT TO THE HOMELESS ALLIANCE AND YOU CAN DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT, THANKS TO THE MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM I SET UP.
HOUSE VOTES THERAPEUTIC CLONING: NO. DARLING AWWR, YES.
OR YOU COULD SPLIT IT BETWEEN US.
OR I COULD BLOW IT ALL ON... ON... THE MIND REELS. GROCERIES? A MAMMOGRAM?
DING DONG
FUEL EFFICIENCY IN S.U.V.S: NO. EARTH IS FLAT: YES.
HI, LOIS. IS GINGER READY?
LEMME GO SEE.
YOUR DATE WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU'RE READY. I REFRAINED FROM TELLING HER YOU PASSED 'READY' SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND WERE NOW WELL INTO THE DESPERATE ZONE.
I CAN'T DO THIS, LOIS! I CAN'T GO OUT WITH A WOMAN WHO HAS A CHILD! I'M TOO YOUNG, I'LL YOU! I HAVEN'T SOWN MY OATS YET!
I THINK YOUR OATS ARE IMPACTED. MAYBE SHE'S NOT LOOKING FOR A SECOND PARENT. MAYBE SHE JUST WANTS TO NAIL YOU.
SHE'S A SINGLE MOTHER! SHE CAN'T GO AROUND NAIL... HAVING CASUAL SEX WITH PEOPLE.
HOW D'YOU KNOW? AT LEAST FIND OUT WHAT HER INTENTIONS ARE.
GIVE IT AWAY? I DON'T THINK SO. I HAVE A KID TO RAISE.
SEE? I WAS RIGHT! AND THAT'S WHY I CAN'T GO OUT WITH HER!
YOU CAN'T GO OUT WITH ME BECAUSE I SPENT MY TAX REBATE ON JONAS'S BRACES?
IGNORE HER. IT'S THE HEAT.

VIEWPOINT

Racism on both sides of the Great Lavender Divide

by REV. JIM WEBB

At times like the media frenzy over the O.J. Simpson trial, Americans have the opportunity to engage in frank discussions about race. The O.J. case showed how African Americans often have a totally different perception than whites on the same events, based on their differing experiences in America.

In recent weeks, comments by an African-American AIDS activist about the spread of HIV among ethnic minorities sparked similar discussions about race within the gay community. That incident made clear that, while it will be a challenge to bridge the "great racial divide" in America, scaling the great Lavender Divide among gays will also be tricky.

Coming out in college, I believed I had reached the Promised Land of complete acceptance when I stepped into my first gay bar. But the shock is still fresh in my mind from the first time I was singled out at a gay bar and carded—even when none of my white friends were.

I also remember my first experience with the "sidewalk sale" syndrome that can happen after the clubs close for the night. Once the club had shut down, the same white guy who had been giving me furtive, sidelong glances all night finally approached me.

I couldn't help thinking, "You had more than two hours to approach me in the bar, so why are you talking to me now that your friends are gone?" Was it racism? tive (but quite welcome) comment to me.

But another quickly shot back, "Don't waste your time—he's a 'crossover.'" Suddenly I had become Benedict Arnold, tainted because I choose to date men of all races.

> My introduction to gay life included lessons in being carded when white friends weren't, and being cruised in secret by white guys who didn't want their friends to know.

My introduction to gay life also included the popular phrase, "Once you've had black, they don't want you back." To me, that implies that a white guy who has slept with a black guy is somehow "tainted merchandise."

That's what I was told by a white guy I dated who had built me up to his friends, without mentioning my race. One of his friends was quite dismayed, asking, "How could you?" As if crossing racial lines to date was akin to murder or treason.

I've run into racism on the black side of the divide, too. Going out to meet friends one night, I was wearing a particularly provocative outfit. A "friend of a friend," who is also black, made a sugges-

On another occasion, I invited an African-American acquaintance to a party I was hosting during a Black Gay Pride weekend. He asked, "Will there be white people there?" When I said there probably would, he said he didn't attend multiracial parties. I found this comment to be just as racist and insensitive as hearing the "N-word," even though the view came from a person of color.

The gay community is a microcosm of society. The same racism, racial resentments, fear, distrust and elitism exist.

But we have a unique opportunity to move forward in a dialogue of healing because we have a more unique understanding of discrimination and its pernicious effects on the human mind, heart and soul.

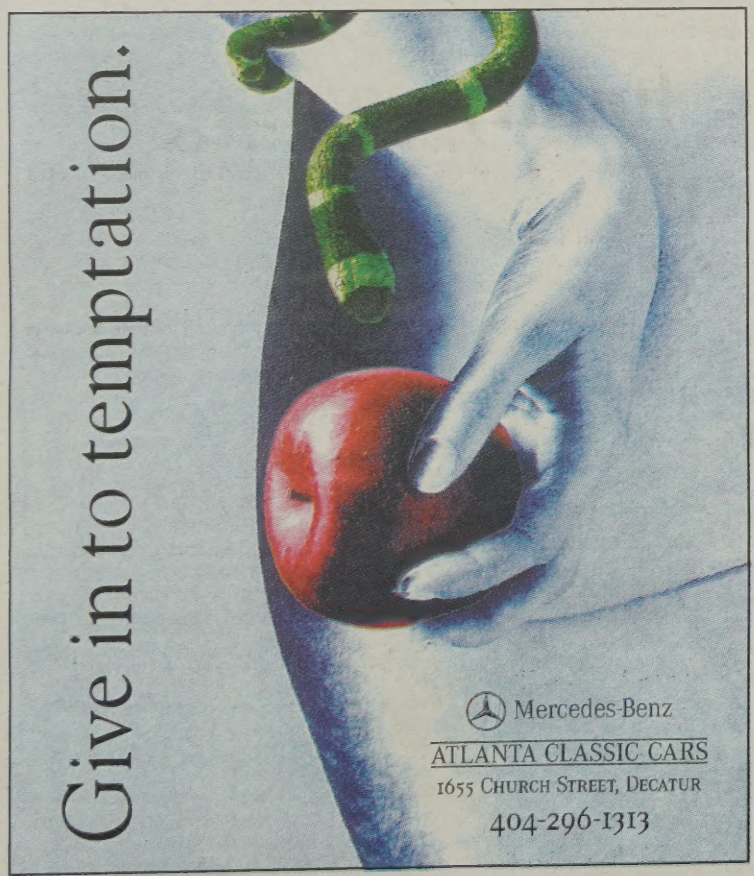
I recall such a frank dialogue with a white friend, who said, "Deep down, when I think about black people, somewhere in the back of my mind, I think they're dirty, and that keeps me from being able to be attracted to them."

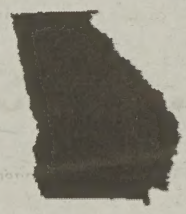
I appreciated the friend's candor more than I appreciated the thought. It would have been quite easy to label my "friend" as racist and to write off all the benefits and blessings that our friendship offered. But reacting negatively would have destroyed the trust we had established, and the candid dialogue presented a "chance for enlightenment."

My friend has since been able to trace his perception of blacks to his early conditioning. For him (and me), this was a healing and liberating discussion because he was able to work through his deeply held perception.

If you don't have a trusted friend of another race, you can still examine your own consciousness, understanding that the effort helps bridge the Great Lavender Divide, which is an important step toward our quest to achieve liberty and justice for *all*.

Rev. Jim Webb is an ordained interfaith minister who currently serves as senior minister of the Takoma Park Metaphysical Chapel in Silver Spring, Md.





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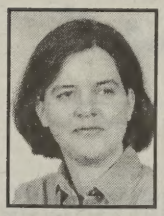


VIEWPOINT

A truly international city would elect a gay mayor

by LESLIE ROBINSON

A meeting is un-derway in a smoke-filled backroom in a huge American city. None of the participants actually smokes, and it took them a long time to locate a suitable backroom, but they like the idea of hatching political strategy in a locale steeped in American urban tradition.

"Gentlemen, and ladies," says Al Tweed Rockefeller Daley, "I've called you here on an urgent matter. We must have a new candidate for mayor."

"What? What's wrong with me?"

"Nothing, Bob. Except that you're straight."

"I thought you wanted someone who's clean as a whistle."

"Not that kind of straight. The fact is, we need a fag for a candidate and we need him now." Gasps go up all around.

"Sure Al," giggles Eileen. "Next you'll be saying Elton John should be Pope."

"I'm serious, people. First Paris, then Berlin elected gay mayors. If we want to make this a truly international city that stands among the world's leaders, we have to jump on the bandwagon."

Carl's face bulges with fury. "For God's sake, Al, that's Europe. They're decadent over there, always have been. We live by moral principles in this country! One man and one woman, joined together for life!"

"And how are your five ex-wives, Carl?"

"Bleeding me dry, you asshole."

"Al."

"What is it, Bob?"

"I can change."

"Huh?"

Bob nods vigorously. "You hear about treatment to make gays straight. Maybe I can become gay. It can't be that hard. I'm willing to try."

"What about your wife?" asks Eileen.

"What wife? See, I'm changing already!"

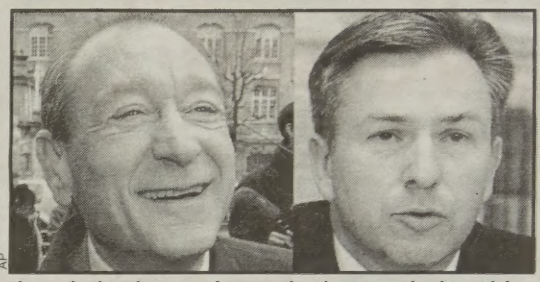
Al shakes his head. "I know how badly you want to be mayor, Bob, but switching orientations now would look suspect. No, we need to find someone who's been homosexual more than five minutes."

"I assume that this person can be a lesbian," Eileen notes.

"Nope," answers Al. "Don't think we're ready for that yet. Like Paris and Berlin, we need a guy. Or as close as a homo can get to being a guy."

"Are you sure?" asks Bob. "I could have a sex change, and then I would be a lesbian!"

Al heaves a sigh and says, "You certainly are a team player, Bob, and I appreciate that. Now shut your mouth! Who has a serious candidate to put forth?"



AP

The newly elected mayors of Paris and Berlin, Bertrand Delanoe (left) and Klaus Wowereit, are gay, so who's to say the trend won't catch on stateside?

"I do."

Al turns toward the voice. "Henry. I thought you had passed out again. Whom do you want to suggest?"

"Me."

"You!"

"Yeah."

"You're, uh, y'know?" At the critical moment, Al can't say the word.

"Yup, I'm y'know."

"Are you sure?"

"Positive."

"Well, this is great!" Al gushes.

"Wait a minute," says Bob. "Henry, you did time for embezzling, didn't you?"

"Yes."

"And tax fraud?"

"Yes."

Bob turns to Al. "Don't you think he's just a teensy bit tainted?"

"We can overcome that," Al responds.

Eileen weighs in. "I don't wish to be rude, and I know what a significant donor Henry is to our coffers, but how do we get around the fact that he is a screaming drunk?"

"I've given up booze," Henry says.

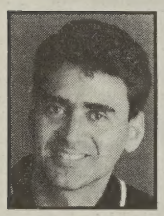
"There, you see?" Al smiles broadly. "No problem."

"Now I'm doing cocaine."

Al's smile evaporates. "Henry, you're not an ideal candidate for mayor, but you have the one quality we need: you're gay. And now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party."

Henry grins. "I might not be good exactly, but I always come to the party."

Leslie Robinson is a New Hampshire-based freelance writer and can be reached via this publication.



SLOUCHING THROUGH SODOM

Here's to Rosie for finally coming out

by MICHAEL ALVEAR

Dear Rosie:

I picked up the September issue of your new magazine and I want to congratulate you for coming out. On the cover no less.

Your words were inspiring: "I am hoping maybe I will be a reference point for someone. ... I have been there, too. You can survive it. You will survive it."

It was touching to see you acknowledge that people suffer when others—especially public figures with lots of influence—don't speak out. I loved what you said: "I believe that one person's story does help another. You think, 'Okay, maybe I'm not so alone, not so abnormal.'"

That is so true. "One person's story" does give people struggling with the same issue a sense of hope, a sense that it's possible to come to terms with themselves.

Take Mike Wallace from "60 Minutes." When he came out, he helped people realize it was possible to be open and still have a great career.

Or William Styron, the author of "Sophie's Choice." When he came out, he helped people realize it was possible to share what seemed like a terrible secret and still be respected.

You, Mike Wallace and William Styron are courageous people for revealing your struggles with depression. But Mike Wallace and William Styron aren't gay, and that makes your coming out about depression a little puzzling to people who are.

> Rosie herself said it best: 'I am convinced that of the many damaging things that happened to me, [silence] was the worst. Shame surrounds silence, infecting the already wounded part.'

You see, there are lots of celebrities who've revealed their struggle with depression, but there are only a small number of celebrities who've revealed their struggle over sexual orientation.

With so few role models for lesbian teenagers and gay women, why not come out on the issue needing the most visibility?

It just doesn't seem fair, Rosie. My girlfriends can get your support if they're depressed, but not if they're lesbian.

You devoted almost the entire September issue of your magazine to depression. You said you did it because you could no longer be silent, that you had to speak out. You said, "I am convinced that of the many damaging things that happened to me, [silence] was the worst. Shame surrounds silence, infecting the already wounded part."

Here's the part I don't understand, Rosie, and I was hoping you could explain it to me. You said the only way to break free is to break the silence. If that's true for depression, why isn't it true for sexual orientation?

Silence and shame surround both depression and homosexuality. Both can destroy family relationships, both can result in suicide. Help me understand, Rosie, why you chose to break the silence about one intensely personal issue you've struggled with and not the other.

I have a lesbian friend whose parents won't call her at home because they're too afraid her girlfriend will answer.

I have another friend whose parents pretty much disowned him after he came out. He stopped by their house recently, just to say hello, just to re-establish some degree of normalcy.

After he knocked, his mother looked through the window and saw that her son's boyfriend was waiting in the car. She never opened the door, Rosie. She never opened the door to her own son. She told him to come back when he was alone.

The irony is that my friend's mother watches your show all the time. She loves you. She won't let her own son in the house, but she'll let you into her living room every day at 4 p.m. There is something so sad about that. So very sad.

You could help change people's minds, Rosie. You could help my friends get their families back, just like you're helping people with depression get theirs back.

Remember how good it felt when someone you looked up to—like Mike Wallace or William Styron—acknowledged that they suffered from depression? Remember how relieved you felt that you weren't the only one going through it? Remember how it filled you with hope? Remember how grateful you were that they took risks to speak their truth?

That's all I'm asking in this letter, Rosie. That you remember.

Michael Alvear lives in Atlanta with his lesbian Labrador and girlie-boy vischla and can be reached at michaelalvear@mediaone.net.

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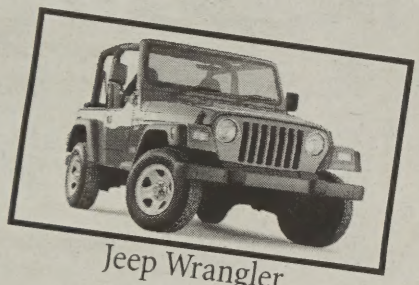

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action! alert

by ANDREW KEEGAN

Girl Scouts attacked for inclusiveness

Anti-gay group in MS touts conservative alternative for girls

The gay-friendly film 'That's a Family!' has raised the ire of the anti-gay American Family Association after Connie Matsui, president of the Girl Scouts of the USA, reportedly praised the film during a White House screening.

Next time you bite into a "Thin Mint," you may be supporting a "pro-homosexual" organization, according to an alert posted by the American Family Association on its Web site last week.

The AFA, a Tupelo, Miss.-based anti-gay religious group, faithfully supports the Boy Scouts decision to exclude gays from its organization and wants the Girl Scouts of the USA to follow.

The Web posting attacked Connie Matsui, president of the Girl Scouts organization, for promoting a "pro-homosexual" film at a White House screening earlier this year.

Matsui, according to the AFA, called "That's a Family!" a wonderful product.

"That's a Family!" is narrated by—and stars—children who are being raised in an array of family structures, including single parent, multiracial, divorced, guardian, adoptive and gay and lesbian-headed households.

"We [Girl Scouts] really look forward to using 'That's a Family!' in our informal education in working with all girls across the country," Matsui said, according to the AFA.

The posting urged concerned AFA supporters to contact the Girl Scouts and voice displeasure over Matsui's remarks.

It was only a matter of time before the non-discriminatory policy employed by the Girl Scouts was attacked, said M.K. Cullen, director of public policy for the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network.

"The past year offers clear cut evidence the Boy Scouts' discriminatory policy is having an adverse affect with a decline in membership," Cullen said. "In the same time frame, Girl Scout membership has seen an increase."

The Girl Scouts believe in the importance of local control, which is why their inclusive policy is working, Cullen added.

"They believe in letting local districts decide what policies are right for them," Cullen said. "Which in turn has led to more than two dozen troops adopting a non-discriminatory policy."

The AFA also offered an alternative organization to the Girl Scouts, which in 1993 revised its "Promise " and made the word "God" no longer mandatory in its mission pledge.

The AFA's advice is to become an American Heritage Girl, a group formed in 1995 by Patti Garibay, an ex-Girl Scout leader.

One of Garibay's reasons for leaving the Girl Scout organization was concern for mandatory training for scout leaders promoting the acceptance of homosexuality as normal, Garibay told the AFA.

A strong emphasis on God and servitude is stressed for American Heritage Girls, whose members are ages five to 18. The organization has a membership of about 1,000 with troops in three states.

In comparison, the Girl Scout Law states, "I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do. And, to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, and make the world a better place."

In fact, freedom of choice is prominently displayed on the newly designed Girl Scout cookie boxes, where scouts are seen exploring careers as aviators, firefighters, journalists and veterinarians.

"It's really ridiculous," said Jody Renaldo, executive director of the Mississippi Gay Lobby. "[The AFA] should be ashamed of themselves for casting such a bad light on Girl Scouts."

Renaldo said the AFA's attack is in direct response to continued pressure from gays to have the Boy Scouts change its anti-gay policies.

"I honesty think the AFA has better things to do than attack a group of girls," Renaldo said. "Why attack an organization that provides a bigotry-free zone?"

The Girl Scouts and the AFA did not respond to interview requests.

ACTION! info

Girl Scouts of the USA
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420 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10018-2798
cmatsui@girlscouts.org
www.gsusa.org

American Family Association
Donald Wildmon, president
P.O. Box 2440
Tupelo, MS 38803
662-844-5036
afw@afa.net
www.afa.net

"quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER and from staff reports

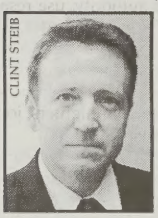
Carol Leifer

"At this point, asking Ellen not to play a gay character would be like asking Rosa Parks to do a minstrel show."
—Comedian Carol Leifer, an executive producer and co-creator of "The Ellen Show," to the *New York Times Magazine*, about the CBS situation comedy starring Ellen DeGeneres, set to debut this fall

"Here's how I look at it. I am really proud of 'Ellen,' but I tried to do something that didn't work. I tried to incorporate educational things about what people actually go through when they're coming out, and it wasn't funny. Because it's *not* funny. And that's why I failed. And by 'failed,' I mean 'got canceled.'"
—Ellen DeGeneres, to the *New York Times Magazine*, Aug. 13

"It's a cosmic joke that I'm a lesbian because I understand men so completely and women are a total mystery to me. ... Women are the most confusing, annoying people in the world."
—Lesbian comic Lea DeLaria to Los Angeles' *Lesbian News*, August issue

"Friends, no. We're co-parents and definitely meet and agree and can participate on a level of parenting for our children. We live back-to-back. Our houses [share a yard], so the kids have this sense of home in one space. So we meet there, [but] I wouldn't say we have a happy friendship."
—Rocker Melissa Etheridge on Julie Cypher, who recently broke up with her after 12 years, announcing that she was no longer gay, to *Etc.* magazine, Aug. 3



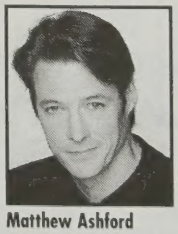
Scott Evertz

"*Poz* [magazine] sought to ask [White House Office of National AIDS Policy Director Scott] Evertz himself about his views, but after many requests for an interview, the White House press office refused, saying Evertz wouldn't be doing any media 'for at least a couple of months'—the Bushies are no doubt keeping him under wraps until they can drum the party line into his head."
—*Poz* magazine, August issue

"Among a sizable group of gays, she is scorned as the latest in a new breed of gay intellectual opportunists, who are said to pander to latent homophobia in the mainstream media, selling out the movement that paved the way for their success. The more successful she is—she is now a regular on the opinion pages of the *Los Angeles Times*—the angrier her opponents become."
—From a *New York Times* profile of syndicated columnist Norah Vincent, Aug. 6

"Norah is not a contrarian gay journalist. She represents a large number of gay men and women who simply don't buy the outdated leftism of most of the gay press and most of gay activism. It is the gay press that's contrarian—publishing writers whose work would be interesting if it were still 1976 but who have nothing new to say."
—Writer Andrew Sullivan on syndicated lesbian columnist Norah Vincent, to the *New York Times*, Aug. 6

"I certainly think that Andrew's popularity, especially on the talk-show circuit, has a lot to do with his own self hatred, which makes him an especially attractive kind of homosexual to a certain kind of talk-show host. Which is the reason that his prominence is so infuriating to the rest of the community."
—Gay author Charles Kaiser on writer Andrew Sullivan, to the *New York Times*, Aug. 6


Matthew Ashford

"The people we're making fun of here is Jack. His ignorance, his biases, the things that he has to figure out, the things that he has to learn. And from my way of thinking, it's more about being different than being gay. So, he's opened a Pandora's Box, and now he has to deal with it."
—Soap opera actor Matthew Ashford ("Jack" from "Days of our Lives"), explaining the fallout from his character's decision to play gay to avoid the romantic advances of Greta, played by Julianne Morris, to the *Soap Opera Digest*

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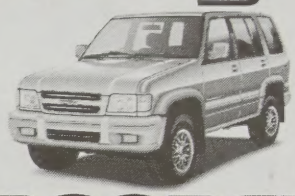
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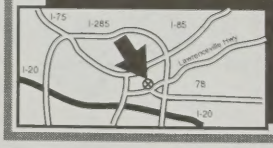

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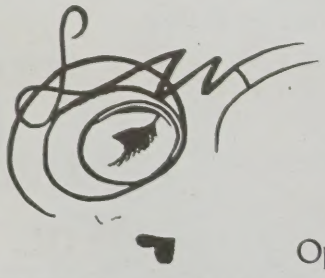

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SoVo Living

Taking Pride in Our Culture • August 30/2001

Just a normal boy

Actor's Express tells a story of human relationships, community and a young gay man named Matthew on stage in Atlanta, Memphis

by JIM FARMER

Hundreds of hate crimes happened before, and hundreds of hate crimes have happened since. The murder of Matthew Shepard, though, is the one that stays with everyone.

Back in 1998, in the small town of Laramie, Wy., openly gay college student Shepard was found tied to a fence and beaten. He was taken to a hospital and died a few days later. His assailants were two young men in the community who had apparently lured him from a bar and then attacked him. It was a case that made national headlines, and one that opened a lot of eyes to the heinous nature of hate crimes.

The play "The Laramie Project," based on the Shepard case, previews at Actor's Express in Atlanta next week before a gala opening weekend Sept. 14-15.

When Actor's Express' artistic director Wier Harman was planning his new season, he realized "The Laramie Project" would be perfect for the company's 2001-2002 schedule. "Our new season deals with the way we identify with, and the relationships we form, with our community," Harman explains. "In a collection of plays about our intrinsic need for community, I can think of no more powerful or relevant place to start the conversation than 'The Laramie Project.'"

Shortly after Shepard's death, writer Moises Kaufman (best known for "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde") and a half dozen others from his Tectonic Theatre Project, visited the town of Laramie—population 27,000—to interview local residents. His intent was to find out how and why this happened and the impact it had.

Over the course of 18 month and six visits, they talked to people in the community, including one of the killers, Aaron McKinney. "The Laramie Project" is based on those actual interviews, with verbatim dialog.

"The Laramie Project" was first staged at the Denver Center Theater in 1999, then moved off-Broadway in New York City and ran until the following year. It has been staged a few more times across the country, but the Actor's Express version is the Southern debut, though only by a number of days. Playhouse on the Square in Memphis, Tenn., is also producing the play Sept. 21-Oct. 21.

'Both Actor's Express and Playhouse on the Square have a reputation for grabbing things hot off the shelf—right after New York," says Playhouse Director of PR Courtney Oliver. "It's a complete coincidence that we're doing it at the same time, but I think it's because people are realizing that this is a very important play."

The Playhouse production is directed by Bo List and stars Jonathan Lamer and Ann Marie Hall. "We've had a great response from gay and human rights groups," says Oliver. "A lot of churches want to bring groups to see it because of the message it has against violence."

It is divided into three acts—with the third being the actual court case—and features 60 characters, played by eight actors. "One of the things I really want to stress is that it is not a re-enactment of the crime," Harman offers. "It is a very powerful, transcendent piece [and] one that has a lot of humor and hope as well."

Harman says that the hardest trick in making the play was to create a balance and not merely place Matthew Shepard on a pedestal. "'The Laramie Project' doesn't portray Matthew as a saint—he's just a normal kid, one who was popular and had a lot of potential," Harman says. "It tells the story from all sides.

➢ Continued on Page 36

AP

Gone but never forgotten: Matthew Shepard, seen here, is the focus of the Actor's Express production of 'The Laramie Project.' The play offers a unique perspective on his killers and the community that surrounded Shepard.

In rehearsal for the court scene, the cast of 'The Laramie Project' includes openly gay actor David Crowe (left) and Justin Welborn.

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Adam (Stuart Townsend) plans to marry Lucy (Kate Hudson), but not before he seduces her sisters and brother in 'About Adam.'

ABOUT ADAM (R) On the way to marrying Lucy (Kate Hudson), Adam (Stuart Townsend) charms her sisters (Frances O'Connor, Charlotte Bradley) and brother (Alan Maher). You may consider the way the last is handled something of a cop-out, but it's a fun scene that makes its point without upsetting anyone. Queer film historians can debate its message, though most will argue that a mental conquest is not as powerful as a physical one. Atlanta (Lefont Garden Hills Cinema).

THE CLOSET (PG-13) Daniel Auteuil plays Francois Pignon, an accountant who learns he's about to be laid off from his job at a factory that makes rubber products, including condoms. Belone (Michael Aumont), a gay neighbor, suggests that the company would be afraid to fire Pignon if they thought he was gay, because they could be perceived as homophobic. Gerard Depardieu stars as a homophobe trying to mend his ways. Area theaters.

THE DEEP END In this emotional, nail-biting noir effort, harried mother Tilda Swinton covers up for her gay teen son when she discovers the dead body of his lover. But how long can she keep it up when a blackmailer arrives? New Orleans (Canal Place Cinemas).

HEDWIG & THE ANGRY INCH The "anatomically incorrect rock odyssey" tells the story of a transsexual aspiring to stardom. The character Hedwig is an East German who had a sex-change operation (badly executed, leaving the "angry inch" of the title) so he could marry an American soldier and move to the States, just before the Berlin Wall fell. Now she's touring the U.S. with a rock band and seeking revenge on Tommy Gnosis, her former teenage lover who stole her material and used it to reach the top of the charts. Openly gay actor John Cameron Mitchell plays Hedwig. Atlanta (UA Tara, 404-634-6288), New Orleans (Canal Place Cinemas).

MOULIN ROUGE (PG-13) A postmodern musical set in a Paris nightclub circa 1900. David Wenham plays a gay lyricist. Area theaters.

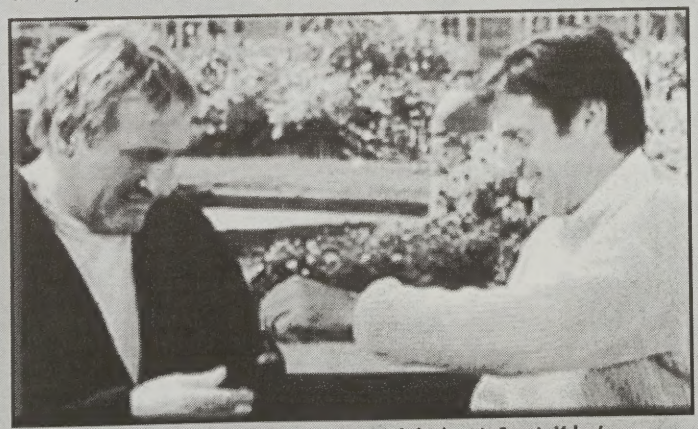
ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW Every Friday at midnight. Atlanta (LeFont Plaza, 1049 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-873-1939). Also Sat., midnight. Raises funds for AIDS Survival Project. Marietta, Ga. (Blackwell Theater, 3378 Canton Rd. 770-428-2617), New Orleans (615 Toulouse St. 504-565-5400), Covington, La. (Star Theatre, 332 N. New Hampshire).

SONGCATCHER (PG-13) The story is of a woman who ventures into Appalachia (filming was done around Asheville) in 1907 to study the music of the region. Musicologist Dr. Lily Penleric moves in with her little sister Elna (Jane Adams), who runs a school with Harriet Tolliver (E. Katherine Kerr), her "friend and colleague." Asheville (Skyland Arts Cinema), Atlanta (UA Tara), Knoxville (Regan Downtown West), Nashville (Regal Green Hills).

SOTTO SOTTO A 1984 Italian film about two housewives who fall in love while vacationing together. Friday at 7 p.m. Lesbian & Gay Community Center of New Orleans, 2114 Decatur St. 504-945-1103.

TOMB RAIDER (PG-13) Stars openly bisexual actor Angelina Jolie as an adventurer. Area theaters.

Tim Curry stars as Dr. Frank N. Furter in 'Rocky Horror Picture Show.'



Gerard Depardieu (left) plays Daniel Auteuil's homophobic boss in Francis Veber's new French film, 'The Closet.'

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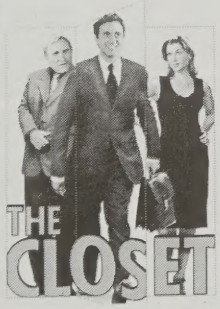

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by STEVE WARREN

Murder in Hollywood, Fla.

Larry Clark's 'Bully' examines the murder of Bobby Kent by a group of friends and peers

In **BULLY**, Larry Clark's uncompromising account of the 1993 murder of Bobby Kent in Hollywood, Fla., the focus is on the victim and the "jury of his peers," seven fellow teenagers, including his best friend, who condemn and execute him.

Bobby (Nick Stahl) has had a lifelong sadomasochistic relationship with Marty Puccio (Brad Renfro). That there's a sexual dimension to it is suggested when Bobby walks in on Marty and his girlfriend Lisa (Rachel Miner) having sex, pushes her aside and announces, "I'm next."

Both youths are shown enjoying hetero sex, but Marty is "gay-for-pay" to some extent, with Bobby pimping for him. At least, Marty does gay phone sex and enters a teen amateur night at a gay bar.

Bobby also makes gay porn videotapes, sells them and sometimes watches them while he's having sex with women.

The gay angle is largely if not totally extraneous to the story, but adds texture. It's Lisa who comes up with the idea of killing Bobby, mostly because of the way he treats Marty.

When Bobby rapes her friend Ali (Bijou Phillips), another conspirator is added. Eventually three more join in, plus a consultant they call "The Hitman."

They plan to lure Bobby to a remote spot and kill him while he's having sex with Ali. A first attempt doesn't work and more planning goes into the second. The actual deed is sloppy, like a bad production of "Julius Caesar," but the job gets done.

Speaking of Shakespeare, Miner takes acting honors as Lisa, a junior Lady Macbeth. After spearheading the murder, she's the first to feel remorse, smelling blood the way Lady M saw it on her hands. The aftermath is darkly comic as everyone tries to distance themselves from the crime.

"Bully" is in the tradition of "River's Edge," but edgier and more graphic.

Director Clark ("Kids," "Another Day in Paradise") doesn't shrink from placing young-looking, naked actors in sexual situations. Despite its young cast, "Bully" should be seen by parents and educators, who will find it the real "scary movie," as well as one of the year's best.

JOHN CARPENTER'S GHOSTS OF MARS is a psychedelic noir Western sci-fi horror action-thriller. With a description like that, you'd expect a bang-'em-up thriller that'd knock your socks off.

"It was a simple plan," Lt. Melanie Ballard (Natasha Henstridge) says of the climax of "Ghosts." "Only trouble was, it didn't work out the way it was supposed to."

That's also true of the movie, Carpenter's worst in some time and also the year's most politically incorrect film. It makes you root for the "cowboys" against the "Indians," or the Earthly invaders who are taking Mars away from its indigenous life forms. You're supposed to feel like "Independence Day" when Ballard says, "It's not their planet anymore!"

Sexual politics also figure teasingly in Carpenter's futuristic vision. In 2176, the Martian colony is under matriarchal rule. Ballard is part of a police force under Commander Helena Braddock (Pam Grier).

But while chicks rule, men haven't changed. Sgt. Jericho (Jason Statham) keeps hitting on Ballard, even after she tells him, "I'd sleep with you if you were the last man on Earth, but we're not on Earth."

Desolation Williams (Ice Cube), the bad-ass prisoner the unit has assigned to transport, is a better match for Melanie. They spar with each other until they have to join forces to survive.

Braddock is a lesbian. The film's Web site informs us her previous employment was as "a high school P.E. instructor." Knowing Ballard does recreational drugs, Braddock tells her, "I need you straight, Melanie."

"Don't worry about that, Commander. I'm as straight as they come."

"Shame," Braddock teases.

But Carpenter can't drop it there. Melanie tells Jericho, "You know how the service is. If I want to make captain, I have to pay the price." From "don't ask, don't tell" to institutionalized sexual harassment in 175 years!

With Braddock being African-American as well as lesbian, don't you know what major character will be the first to die—in this case nearly an hour before anyone else?

The "manifest destiny" politics would be more objectionable if there were any reason to take any part of the picture seriously for even a moment. Carpenter's fans will have a hard time defending this one.

INFO

'Bully'
★★★

Directed by Larry Clark

Starring Brad Renfro, Rachel Miner, Nick Stahl

Queer Quotient: From the opening line, "I want you to suck my big dick," homoeroticism is never far beneath the surface, even though we're left wondering whether the central characters ever acted on their sexual feelings for each other.

'John Carpenter's Ghosts of Mars'
★1/2

Directed by John Carpenter

Starring Ice Cube, Natasha Henstridge, Pam Grier

Queer Quotient: Grier's lesbian character adds spice to the first few minutes, but the movie dies when she does.

Pam Grier gets to be a lesbian in 'John Carpenter's Ghosts of Mars,' but her character is offed in the first half of the film.

Nick Stahl plays the bisexual and sadistic Bobby in 'Bully.'

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women

TOP 5 BEST-SELLERS

1. **The Truth Is...** by Melissa Etheridge (Villard, hardcover, $24.95) The lesbian rocker tells the stories behind her songs.
2. **Kiss the Girls and Make Them Spy** by Mabel Maney (Harper, paperback, $14) When James Bond has a nervous breakdown, his lesbian sister Jane steps in to save England.
3. **Valencia** by Michelle Tea (Seal, paperback, $13) A blue-haired lesbian goes through women, jobs, and life with reckless abandon.
4. **The Vagina Monologues** by Eve Ensler (Villard, paperback, $12.95) A book based on Ensler's show that explores and celebrates female sexuality.
5. **Death Club** by Claire McNab (Naiad, paperback, $11.95) Sex, intrigue, and murder spice up a women's golf tournament.

men

TOP 5 BEST-SELLERS

1. **Drama Queen** by Patrick Price (Griffin, paperback, $12.95) Advice, quizzes, and classifications of behavior fill this "gay man's guide to an uncomplicated life."
2. **Tricks of the Trade** by Ben Tyler (Kensington, hardcover, $23) A gay screenwriter is caught in a blackmail scam in this steamy tale of Hollywood intrigue.
3. **The World of Normal Boys** by K. M. Soehnlein (Kensington, paperback, $14) An artful tale of growing up and discovering sexual identity in the New Jersey suburbs in the 1970s.
4. **Twink** edited by Jack Hart (Alyson, paperback, $13.95) There's more than horseplay going on in these stories about when young men hang out and fool around.
5. **Night in the Barracks** edited by Alex Buchman (Harrington Park, paperback, $12.95) They are asking, telling, and taking names in these "authentic accounts of sex in the armed forces."

general

TOP 5 BEST-SELLERS

1. **Any Way the Wind Blows**, by E. Lynn Harris (Doubleday, hardcover, $19.95) A bisexual "player" rekindles an ill-fated love for a diva in this sequel to Not a Day Goes By.
2. **What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality**, by Daniel A. Helminiak (Alamo Square Press, paper, $14). This scholarly report suggests that the Bible does not condemn gay sex.
3. **Me Talk Pretty One Day**, by David Sedaris (Little Brown, paperback, $14.95). This is a collection of autobiographical stories from the openly gay humorist.
4. **I'm the One that I Want** by Margaret Cho (Ballantine, hardcover, $22.95) This book is a fleshed-out version of Cho's solo show of the same title.
5. **Before Night Falls** by Reinaldo Arenas (Penguin, paperback, $12.95) This autobiographical work by the late gay Cuban writer was recently made into a movie.

This month's bestsellers list reflects sales figures requested from gay and lesbian stores across the country.

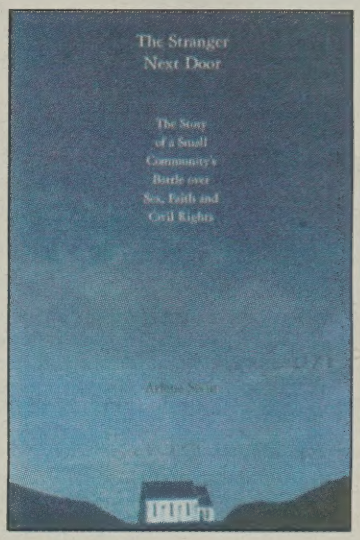
—Brian Moylan

out in print BOOK REVIEWS

Fear of a queer planet

A conservative leader in 1994 works a tiny Oregon town into a frenzy over a non-existent threat

by JESSE MONTEAGUDO



In 1994, the Oregon Citizens Alliance sponsored a series of anti-gay measures in nearly three dozen cities and counties in Oregon. OCA deliberately targeted places that had supported its statewide initiative in 1992, an initiative that lost because of the opposition from large urban areas.

This time, OCA was more successful. One of its victories was in "Timbertown" (not its real name), a town that gave 53 percent of its vote to the statewide initiative in 1992 and now expressed its disapproval of homosexuality by a vote of 57 percent.

The year 1994 was also a time of change for sociologist Arlene Stein—she moved to Oregon. Coming from a large urban area, she was amazed and intrigued by the cultural war that brewed in Timbertown and other places like it.

"Rural Oregon was a rather unlikely site for a battle over homosexuality," she writes in **THE STRANGER NEXT DOOR: THE STORY OF A SMALL COMMUNITY'S BATTLE OVER SEX, FAITH, AND CIVIL RIGHTS.** "In this vast, sparsely populated region of the country, there were few visible signs of queer life outside of the few metropolitan areas; no out homosexuals lobbying for civil rights; no lesbian/gay coffeehouses, newspapers, or running clubs, commonplace in larger towns and cities. Yet suddenly the issue of homosexuality moved to center stage."

Unlike the sexually charged gay men of most major cities, Timbertown's queers were mostly laid-back lesbian couples who kept their sexual orientation to themselves. This did not stop OCA and its leader, Lon Mabon, from raising the specter of homosexuality.

Mabon posed a question to his community: "Do you know that homosexuals are taking over the local schools?" The rest is history.

Stein set out to discover why Timbertown got into a frenzy over a "gay menace" that did not exist. Though Christian conservatives were behind the OCA initiative, there was more at stake than religious beliefs.

As a union leader told Stein, "Christianity has very little [to] do with the appeal of the Christian right. It's not about theology, it's about economics."

The decline in the logging industry, which for decades was the mainstay of Timbertown, eroded a social system that centered around a working father, a stay-at-home mother and children who knew their place. This social system was eroded even further by the arrival of outsiders—including the aforementioned lesbian couples—who "seemed oblivious to the fact that the very things that attracted them to a small community would be changed by their very presence."

Their structured lives in disarray, the folks in Timbertown looked for scapegoats, from "hippie environmentalists" to spotted owls. Lesbians and gay men, real or imagined, soon became their preferred target.

The religious right—and the Oregon Citizens Alliance—took advantage of this wave of resentment.

"Conservative Christians believed that they alone could lead the re-imagined community and assert the primitive status of heterosexuality. They alone could produce a different sort of politics, one that would bring the values of intimate familiarity—nurturance, reciprocity, and community solidarity—into the public realm," Stein notes.

"The Stranger Next Door" is an incisive and even-handed study of the culture wars, as experienced by a community that was torn apart by sex, faith and civil rights. Though Stein—a Jew, a lesbian and an intellectual—disagrees with everything that OCA stands for, she gives its supporters the benefit of every doubt and allows them to tell their side of the story. She is also critical of the Community Action Network, the progressive group created to fight Timbertown's anti-gay initiative.

Stein sums it all up nicely in the book. The Christian right survives because it speaks to the aspirations and fears of millions of Americans, while liberalism lacks a moral vocabulary that is adequate to sensibly discuss the link between family, morality and politics.

INFO

'The Stranger Next Door'
by Arlene Stein
Beacon Press, 267 pages, $27.50
www.beacon.org

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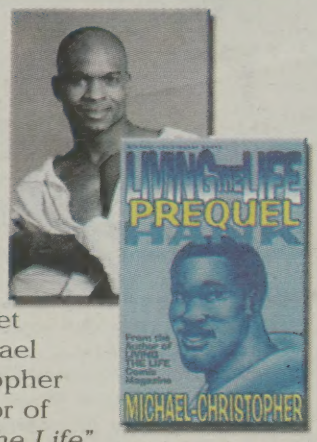
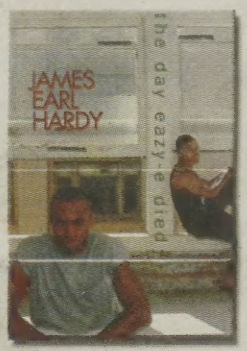
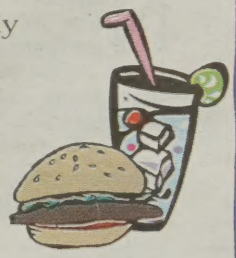


Meet the Authors

meet
Michael
Christopher
Author of
"Living the Life"
Comic Books
Friday, Aug. 31
7:30PM



meet
James Earl Hardy
Author of
"B-Boy Blues"
Reading and
Signing
"The Day That
Eazy-E Died"
Saturday, Sept 2
7:30PM



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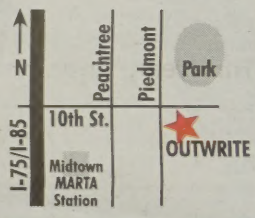

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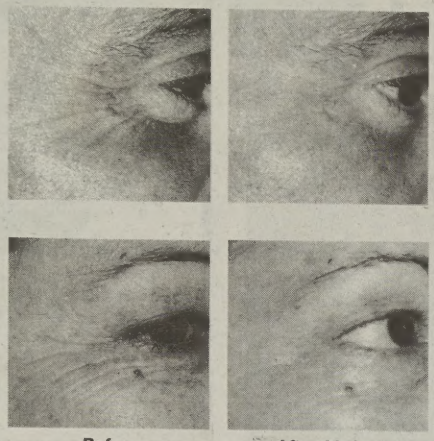

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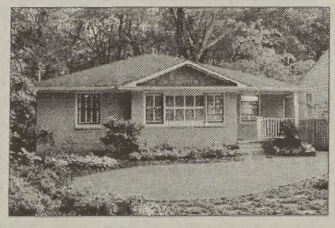

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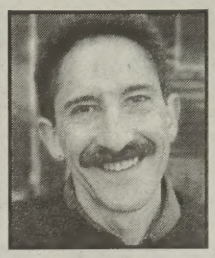
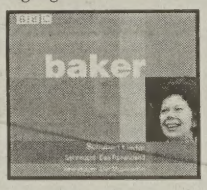


by JASON SERINUS

A trilogy of great vocal recitals

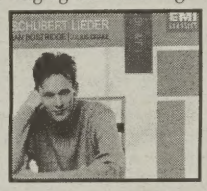
Music from Franz Schubert and Lee Hoiby prove the lasting impact gay talents have had on classical music

No one knew how to write a good tune better than Franz Schubert (1791-1828). His songs often were more profound than happy. Frequent financial problems, the pain of being homosexual in an age of non-acceptance and the realization at age 25 that he would eventually die of syphilis did not a happy camper make—yet their dramatic truth, heart-touching sincerity, and sheer beauty of line rarely fail to reward. Yes, Schubert wrote mainly in German, and translations are not always available, but the feelings within Schubert's melodies touch so deeply that meaning transcends the level of language.



Two recent Schubert lieder (song) recitals provide extraordinary rewards. Highest possible recommendation goes to **SCHUBERT: LIEDER** by **JANET BAKER**. Containing 19 selections drawn from three live recitals the mezzo-soprano gave in 1970, 1977 and 1980, the recordings catch Baker at her peak. Two of her three accompanists, Graham Johnson and Geoffrey Parsons, are among the best, while the slightly less accomplished Martin Isepp supports a 37-year-old Baker in marvelous voice. Yes, her sound is a bit thicker in the 10 selections recorded when she is at age 47, yet she is still capable of slimming her voice down to the lightest of sweet and holy utterances. It is that sweetness, combined with passion, sincerity and a consummate belief in the music, that make you feel that Schubert, rather than Baker, is what her singing is all about.

SCHUBERT: LIEDER, VOLUME II by **IAN BOSTRIDGE** and **JULIUS DRAKE** presents the lyric tenor in marvelous voice. Now in his early 30s, Bostridge retains the youthful beauty of timbre, cleanliness of attack and impeccable diction that made his "Die Schöne Mullerin" so exceptional. Where he differs from Baker, however, is how he infuses his singing with meaning.



Baker relies primarily on volume and tone to get her feelings across, while Bostridge, an equal master in those realms, too frequently resorts to underscoring consonants, vowels and entire words. If one were to read these texts (provided) the same way Bostridge sings them, one might be booed out of a coffee house.

Yet, despite a tendency to be a bit precious, Bostridge's intelligence, sincerity and sheer health of voice frequently transcend critical concerns. Julius Drake provides perfect accompaniment.

RESTLESS SPIRITS by **DORA OHRENSTEIN** features the former solo soprano vocalist of the Philip Glass Ensemble performing works by six highly imaginative composers, four of whom are still productive. The wildest, most astounding selection is the gay Lee Hoiby's "The Italian Lesson," Op. 34. Set to an absolutely wicked text by Ruth Draper, this 19-minute, four-part dramatic scena exposes an utterly pretentious, pathetically transparent woman who tries to get through an Italian lesson in Dante's Divine Comedy. All the while she's philosophizing, dealing with the children, preparing the menu, conducting a telephone conversation with little Billy's schoolteacher and welcoming a puppy into the household. This may sound like a simple case of multi-tasking *in extremis*, but this woman is clearly over the top. You will be too, with laughter, as you experience what diva Dora does with Draper's daffy Madame.

Ohrenstein's compilation also features "La Dame de Monte Carlo," a seven-minute tour de force by the gay team of Francis Poulenc and Jean Cocteau, Thomas Adès' brilliant "Life Story" and an updating of Henry Purcell's "Bess of Bedlam."

INFO

'Schubert: Lieder'
Janet Baker (BBCL 4070-2)

'Schubert: Lieder, Volume II'
Ian Bostridge and Julius Drake
(EMI 7243 5 57141 2 1)

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on the air

by ZTEVEN COX

Out for round two

Ellen DeGeneres is back on the small screen with a different network and a new show

Out comic and actress Ellen DeGeneres returns to TV with a new series.

Considering the rainbow-colored glow that's beaming from today's television screens, it's hard to believe that just four years ago, being gay on the cathode ray could cause such a fuss. But it did. When **ELLEN DEGENERES** came out on her sitcom in 1997, all hell seemed to break loose.

Overnight, a slapstick sitcom and its unassuming star went from being light entertainment to being the most important thing in the world. Microscopes and binoculars flew off the shelves so that all could gawk and probe and point at Ellen, "the lesbian." She went from comedian to coat rack, as everyone fought to find a hook on which to hang their own agendas.

Some viewers found the out Ellen to be too preachy, while others pushed for her to be more political and issue-oriented. Even puffy ol' Jerry Falwell got in on the act by calling her "Ellen DeGenerate," an embarrassingly stupid move even by his standards.

While it can be argued that the microscopic scrutiny and discussion opened eyes and paved the way for the considerably more gay-friendly version of today's television, the belaboring of the issue also spelled certain death for a show that had built itself on a kind of relaxed goofiness.

Shortly thereafter, "Ellen" was canceled. The network blamed the cancellation on falling ratings while DeGeneres blamed its demise on the network's homophobia.

Luckily however, that slap didn't stick. Ellen is back. She returns this fall to network television on CBS with "The Ellen Show" (or "Ellen, Again," depending on the source) and into a much more accepting TV climate. But on the new show, don't expect DeGeneres to be the hand in fist, soap box-toting spokesperson for all gays and lesbians that some strangely feel she must be.

Although her new character will be as queer as a three dollar bill, DeGeneres says that this time, the number one objective is to just be funny. Scott Seomin, a spokesperson for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation told the *New York Post* that, "lesbianism is matter-of-fact" in the new show and that DeGeneres is not there "to make a point."

It's a decision many have predictably criticized her for, insinuating that placing the show's emphasis on humor somehow compromises her sexual orientation.

The new show's premise centers around Ellen's dot-com company going belly-up and her move back to her hometown in small town America. It's written by Carol Leifer, ("Seinfeld") and Mitch Hurwitz ("The Golden Girls").

Cloris Leachman stars as Ellen's wacky mother, with Emily Rutherford portraying her scatterbrained sister. Jim Gaffigan plays Ellen's high school prom date (who believes the pair can pick up where they left off) and veteran actor Martin Mull rounds out the cast as Ellen's clueless high school teacher. The show's pilot reportedly deals with Ellen's adjustment to small town life and her revelation to her friends and family that she's gay. She's then immediately introduced to the high schools's P.E. coach Bunny, who takes Ellen to the town's closest gay bar—a short 145 miles away.

In a recent interview with *Curve*, DeGeneres raved about the show's supporting cast insisting, "Everybody will be big stars, I promise you. They're all great." Reportedly DeGeneres is more than just a little excited about the new show and still feels that being visible as a lesbian counts for a lot.

Originally slated for Friday night placement in a graveyard of a time slot, DeGeneres says she feels confident that her audience will find her regardless of when the show airs. According to representatives at CBS, however, the program has been moved to Monday nights at 9:30 p.m.

INFO

'The Ellen Show'
CBS
Debuts Sept. 17
9:30 p.m.
www.cbs.com

tv & radio CALENDAR

saturday, sept. 1

WOMEN'S GOLF The State Farm Rail Classic. ESPN2 at 2 p.m.

WNBA FINALS The Charlotte Sting faces off against the Los Angeles Sparks in game two of the championship play-off. NBC at 3:30 p.m.

GET CARTER While Jack Carter (Sylvester Stallone) is searching for revenge for his estranged brother's murder, one of the seedy characters he meets is a fey millionaire played by Alan Cumming. HBO at 9 p.m.

BIG BROTHER 2 See how gay cast member Bunky fares. CBS at 9 p.m.

BEYOND CHANCE A show about supernatural and miraculous experiences hosted by Melissa Etheridge. Lifetime at 11 p.m.

sunday, sept. 2

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GARP John Lithgow plays Roberta, a transsexual former football player and the most well-adjusted person in this drama. Encore at 12:45 p.m.

WOMEN'S GOLF The State Farm Rail Classic. ESPN at 1:30 p.m.

WNBA FINALS Game four of the championship play-off. NBC at 3:30 p.m.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Gay actor Rupert Everett stars as a man reluctant to marry in an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's comedic play. Encore at 4:30 p.m.

XENA WARRIOR PRINCESS Xena saves a young virgin from a ritual sacrifice. WB at 5 p.m.

THE TRUTH ABOUT JANE Well-intentioned but occasionally clumsy film about a mother's attempt to understand when her teenage daughter comes out as a lesbian. Lifetime at 5 p.m.

THE LOVE LETTER An anonymous love letter plays havoc with the hearts of the citizens of a New England town, including Ellen Degeneres. HBO at 6 30 p.m.

A VERY BRADY SEQUEL Return of the Brady Bunch, with RuPaul as Jan's guidance counselor. ABC at 7 p.m.

THE SIMPSONS Homer has to entertain Mr. Burns while Smithers is on vacation at a gay resort. Fox at 8 p.m.

LOS BELTRAN Spanish-language sitcom featuring a gay couple as the next-door neighbors. Telemundo at 8 p.m.

AS GOOD AS IT GETS Jack Nicholson won an Oscar for his role as Melvin, a bigot with a gay neighbor played by Greg Kinnear. TBS at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m.

QUEER AS FOLK Justin addresses his skill at oral sex while visiting a therapist with his mother. Showtime at 10 p.m.

ED WOOD Wonderfully acted biography of Ed Wood, the cross-dressing director of "Glen or Glenda? or I Changed My Sex," as well as other cinematic turkeys. Encore at 10:15 p.m.

LEAP YEARS An innovative series that simultaneously looks at a group of friends, one of whom is gay, in the past, present, and future. Showtime at 10:45 p.m.

THIS AMERICAN LIFE Ira Glass' radio showcase of America's weird and wonderful regularly features gay humor writer David Sedaris. WABE 90.1 FM at 4 p.m. **Atlanta.**

monday, sept. 3

ALL MY CHILDREN This long-running serial now features Bianca, the lesbian daughter of legendary Erica Kane (Susan Lucci). ABC Weekdays at 1 p.m.

THREE TO TANGO A straight architect (Matthew Perry) pretends to be gay in order to get closer to the woman of his dreams. HBO at 1:15 p.m.

THE PRODUCERS The movie that spurred the smash hit Broadway musical features Christopher Hewett as drag queen Broadway director Roger Debree. Turner Classic Movies at 1:30 p.m.

SPYDER GAMES This serial both ridicules the soap genre and revels in it. Look for Ivan (Byron Field,) a closeted gay newlywed. MTV Monday through Friday at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

LIFE WITH JUDY GARLAND: ME AND MY SHADOWS The acclaimed television adaptation of Lorna Luft's book features Judy Davis in a spectacular performance as gay icon Garland. Lifetime at 7 p.m.

MADONNA DROWNED WORLD TOUR A rebroadcast of the Aug. 27 live concert in Detroit. HBO at 9 p.m.

C1TV Cable show devoted to gay men and lesbians. Airing censored episodes of "Queer as Folk." Cable 9, 16, 24, or 25 at 11 p.m. **Atlanta.**

tuesday, sept. 4

HIDDEN VALUES A documentary about 1950s filmmaking features segments about two of James Dean's three movies. Turner Classic Movies at 8 p.m.

SOAP DISH Sally Field, Kevin Kline and Whoopi Goldberg star in this spoof of life on the set of a daytime drama, which ends with a surprising gay twist. Comedy Central at 8 p.m.

BIG BROTHER 2 The second episode of the week. CBS at 9 p.m.

GET CARTER See Saturday at 9 p.m. listing. HBO at 9 p.m.

REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE Gay actor Sal Mineo co-stars in this James Dean classic of teenage angst. Turner Classic Movies at 9 p.m.

GRETA GARBO: A LONE STAR A profile of the bisexual actress and lesbian icon. American Movie Classics at 10 p.m.

QUEER AS FOLK See Sunday listing. Showtime at 11 p.m.

WITHOUT YOU I'M NOTHING A film version of bisexual comedian Sandra Bernhard's one-woman show. Showtime at midnight.

HIGHER LEARNING After being date raped, a young woman (Kristy Swanson) finds healing in the love of women. HBO at 12:50 a.m.

wednesday, sept. 5

CALAMITY JANE Doris Day plays a slightly more heterosexual version of this real-life lesbian cowgirl in this 1953 musical/bio-pic. Turner Classic Movies at 6 p.m.

20/20 Anne Heche talks to Barbara Walters about her relationship with Ellen, her upcoming marriage, and reveals, "I was insane for 31 years." ABC at 10 p.m.

thursday, sept. 6

FRIENDS Monica forces Chandler to go see his drag queen father (Kathleen Turner) at his cabaret act and invite him to their wedding. NBC at 8 p.m.

BIG BROTHER 2 Root for Bunky as the ninth housemate is evicted. CBS at 8 p.m.

WILL AND GRACE Will has a hard time dating a younger man while Grace and Nathan's relationship is heating up. NBC at 9 p.m.

GAR WILLIAMS SHOW Gar reveals the truth behind gay old Hollywood. New Orleans Cable Access Channel 78 at 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. **New Orleans.**

MOUTH OF THE SOUTH LIVE! Peg's weekly cocktail party—taped live at the Metro on Mondays. People TV, cable channel 12 or 24 at 11 p.m. and Sat at 10 p.m. **Atlanta.**

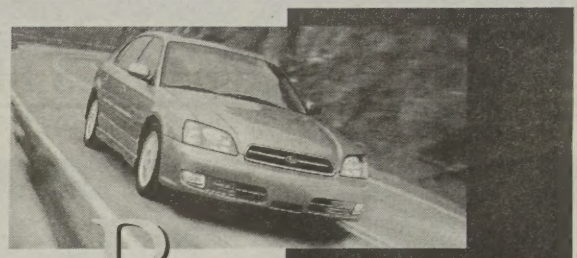
friday, sept. 7

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY A movie adapted from the Oscar Wilde novel of the same title, in which the title character sells his soul to remain young forever. Turner Classic Movies at 9 a.m.

CHASING AMY An earnest, funny, but occasionally awkward film about a straight comic book artist (Ben Affleck) who falls in love with a lesbian writer. Encore at 10:05 p.m.

TO WONG FOO, THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, JULIE NEWMAR Three drag queens (Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes, and John Leguizamo) transform a small town when their car breaks down en route to a drag competition. USA at 11 p.m.

DEAUNDRA PEEK'S TV SHOW People TV, cable channel 12 or 24, 11:30 p.m. and Sat at 11 p.m. **Atlanta.**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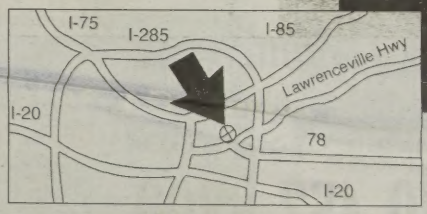

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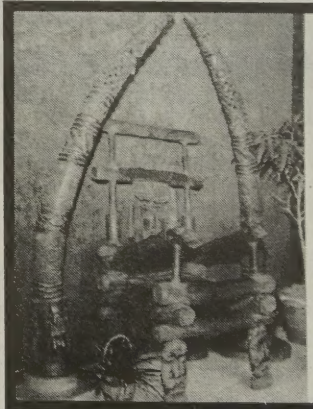
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ms. behavior

Common-sense advice on life and love

by MERYL COHN

Ex wants what's owed him

Dear Ms. Behavior:

My best friend (and long-time ex) Jim is happy in a new relationship with a man also named Jim. My Jim has had a life-long problem with debt, including school loans and credit cards up the wazoo. He has often sought my help with budgets and organization.

The two Jims have been together for a year; they are happy, have bought real estate and have merged like lesbians. My Jim is particularly happy because his boyfriend, a stockbroker, is richer than God.

He doesn't seem to have a single problem anymore and is basically very content, I presume because his boyfriend paid off his debts, bought the new home, furniture and lifestyle, and basically created a comfy nest for the two of them.

Here's the problem. My Jim owes me $7,000 from loans over the years. Since I never in a million years thought he'd be able to pay it back, I forgave him the loan. Is it okay for me to have a frank talk with Jim about the money and his new situation?

It seems indelicate to point out his newfound standing as a rich househusband, and yet, if his new Jim is paying people off, why shouldn't he pay me? How can I explain that I forgave him the loan because I never thought he'd have two pennies to rub together? Please don't tell me to let it go. Seven thousand dollars is a lot of money!

—Friend of Jim(s)

Dear Friend of Jim(s):

Lucky thing that Jim's desperation took the form of being broke. Imagine if he'd had kidney failure and you'd helped him out! Ms. Behavior envisions your conversation: "Jim, I never guessed you'd land a boyfriend with two perfectly functioning kidneys. Isn't it time we contacted a surgeon to retrieve mine?"

Since you forgave Jim the loan, standing on line with your hand out would seem tacky. If you insist on discussing it, tell him simply and directly that if he's ever in a position to re-pay you, it would help you. But do not act resentful when the Jims fly to European Health Spas and do not cry when they visit wearing matching Rolexes.

If you do talk about it, say it once and never bring it up again. Think of it like this: If Jim hadn't had anything nice to wear and you'd donated your favorite frock to his limited wardrobe, you might feel stirrings of longing for it back once Jim snagged a fabulous Parisian designer who filled his closet with stunning outfits.

But even then you could only tastefully notify him of your feelings: "Jim, if you some day find that you don't actually need that slimming black velvet and lace gown, and it's just taking up space in your closet, I wouldn't mind having it back."

Money is, of course, a little trickier. It takes up little space, is not necessarily irreplaceable, and the question of need vs. desire is not clear-cut. Only when pressed, for example, will Ms. Behavior reveal that her desire for a pair of Manolo Blahnik shoes might be lower priority than her need for Pan-Asian food, world peace and oral sex. (She declines to comment, however, on comfortable shoes vs. tribadism.)

> Stop agreeing to things that make you feel bad; they'll only twist you and your relationship into a pretzel.

Dear Ms. Behavior:

Tonight my wife "Brenda" has gone on a date with another woman. I've agreed to it, but I don't approve. She has said recently that she loves me "millions," and wants to spend the rest of her life with me, but she also said that at this moment in time she doesn't "fancy" me.

She met this girl about six weeks ago. She assured me that this is only a fantasy or experiment. What should I do?

—Rita

Dear Rita:

Stop agreeing to things that make you feel bad; they'll only twist you and your relationship into a pretzel. You can't keep Brenda happy by agreeing to let her date someone else. She thinks she can keep you hooked by saying that she wants to spend "the rest of her life" with you—at least the part that happens when she's not at the movies or in a bubble bath with another woman.

Grow a backbone and tell her what you want. Then, if it doesn't work out between you and Brenda, toss her gently to the curb (please understand that as a metaphor for breaking up—Ms. Behavior doesn't advocate spousal abuse). At least you won't have to blame yourself for being a spineless jellyfish.

Meryl Cohn is the author of "Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette" (Houghton Mifflin, 1995). Address correspondence to: Ms. Behavior, c/o Southern Voice, 1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D, Atlanta, GA 30306, or to msbehavior@aol.com.

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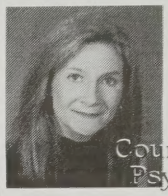

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Actor's Express continues its gay theater tradition

➢ Continued from Page 25

Everyone's pretense and bias comes down in this project."

One of strongest scenes in "The Laramie Project", according to Harman, is when Dennis Shepard, the father of Matthew, is allowed to speak at the Senate hearings.

"It's a gorgeous speech," Harman professes. "It's a speech Dennis Shepard makes to Aaron McKinney, right after the judge has told Mr. Shepard that he would go along with what he recommended.

"Dennis Shepard tells Aaron that he doesn't recommend putting him to death, because that is not what Matthew would have liked, and he wanted Aaron to remember Matthew the rest of his life," Harmen adds.

Among the other characters are friends of Matthew, the head of the hospital, and a 19-year-old drama student who has a sharp progression in feelings over the course of the events.

"The Laramie Project" is being directed by Claudia Zelevansky, who, according to Harman, just got through directing a cynical, unorthodox version of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town." "She is very politically minded," Harman says.

"In a time characterized by a lack of leadership, a focus on personal needs over public concerns, and a profound dependence on the constant receipt of 'information,' 'The Laramie Project' stands as a unique theatrical opportunity," Zelevansky stresses.

"While this piece centers on the murder of Shepard, it extends well beyond its immediate subject matter to open up important questions about bias, national character and the ties that bind us all."

Harman doesn't expect much controversy, even if there has been some elsewhere. "Some feel it may be exploitive," Harman avers. "I'd be lying if I said there hasn't been some criticism of it in other places.

"But I think it's an act of remembrance. Look, this stuff still happens. Hate crimes are still going on. The only way to respond is to put it in the foreground."

David Crowe, an openly gay actor who is in the cast, said he learned quite a bit by being in the show. "I wouldn't have been as interested in doing this if it were just a normal tear-jerker," he admits.

"But it is so much more. As an actor, it's a chance to work on something unique, one that is particularly challenging. It speaks to me as a gay man, but the scope is so much more than just being gay. It's about hate crimes, about victims, and violence and how a community deals with it all,"he adds.

Crowe, who has been featured in several gay roles at Express, including "Love! Valour! Compassion!," also liked that the play makes the townspeople fully dimensional, not stereotypical.

"It's very fair to everyone in the story," he says. "Personally, I didn't know the extent of the injury. It's really horrifying. When you hear about the two murderers, it's sad—that these two could head to a place where they could do that to someone."

Harman took over for openly gay Chris Coleman at the beginning of Actor's Express 2000-2001 season. It was a heavy responsibility, and many people wondered how a heterosexual man could carry on Actor's Express' tradition of gay-positive work. Yet Harman seems to have pulled it off, creating a first season that took some artistic chances but also produced some solid audiences.

"Over the last year, I've had the chance to talk to people who come here and find out what they liked and what they didn't like about the first season," he recalls. "I took what they said under consideration for our new season."

He was long aware of Actor's Express' reputation as the unofficial gay voice in town, even before he started, and didn't want to rattle that. "I always want to strive for diversity, but do good work," he says.

He is particularly happy that he will get to close the season with the gay-themed romance "Beautiful Thing" next spring. "I don't know that a lot of other theaters in town would choose projects like that and 'Laramie.' But if I have a chance to tell a good gay story, I want to."

The Memphis cast of 'The Laramie Project': (front, left to right) Ann Marie Hall, Michael Gravois, (back, left to right) Laurie Cook-McIntosh, Jonathan Lamer, Mary Buchignani, Steven Burk and Sarah Robinson.

INFO

'The Laramie Project'
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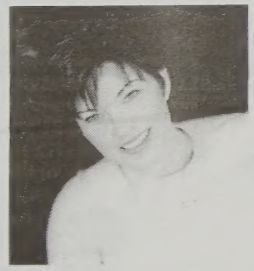

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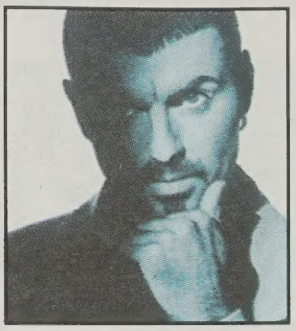
There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

Puttin' the ham in Wham!

Pop music's favorite "outsider" George Michael has done it again. The former Wham! man has gone and exposed himself in a dangerous public setting once more. This time, at a friend's wedding! According to AP news reports, Michael braved Mid-East turmoil recently to attend a photographer friend's wedding on the beaches of Tel Aviv. Reports state that several celebrities were invited but didn't attend for fear of Israeli-Palestinian fighting. Even rock's bad boys, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, canceled. But not George Michael! No ma'am! The faithful friend arrived in true high-security diva style, flanked by bodyguards, while stationing other guards on the outskirts of the event. Although Michael didn't perform at the ceremony, he did extend himself by signing autographs for attendees. Seems Michael is always willing to stick his neck out for a friend....



George Michael signed autographs for fans in the Middle East recently.

Lily White House?

No wonder former President Bill Clinton stayed so stylishly cool—and in so much silly trouble. One of his top advisors was a drag queen! Ben Schatz, one of Clinton's former White House advisors, told the *New York Times* last week that he currently "has a full-time gig as a sassy drag queen named Rachel." Schatz, who began his career as a lawyer before working for the White House, said that by 1999, he had "burned out" and felt that drag was the next logical step in his career path. "Everybody should have a Rachel," the 42-year-old Schatz told the *Times*. "She gets a lot out of my system." Rachel currently performs with the "Kinsey Sicks," an all-drag singing group that describes themselves as America's Favorite Dragapella Beauty Shop Quartet. Keep an eye out for them. And if you do get a chance to see these Hillary-ous gals, be sure to tip them a Bill!

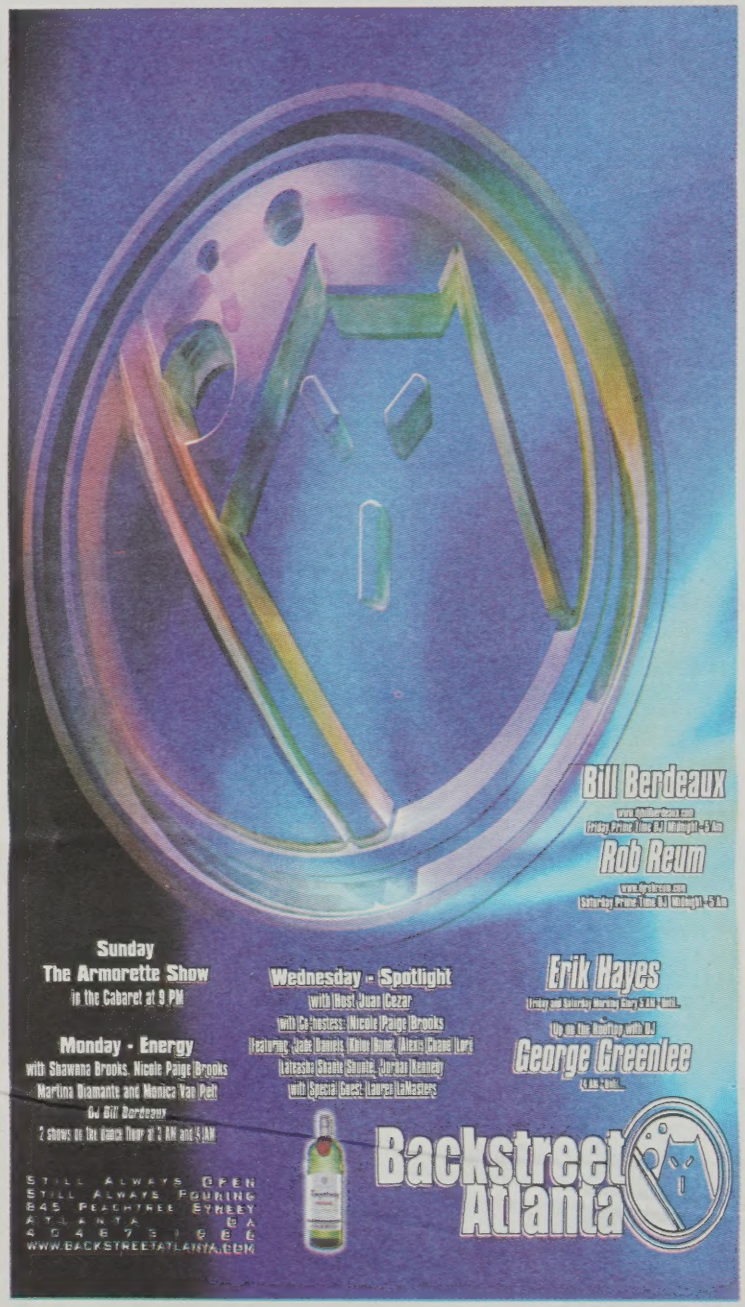
Former White House advisor Ben Schatz is currently performing with a beauty shop quartet as a sassy drag queen named Rachel.

I will survivor

Former "Survivor" champion Richard Hatch may be up against his toughest nemesis yet—an ex-boyfriend. As winner of the reality show's premiere season, the openly gay Hatch faced snakes, rats and leeches on a daily basis—and came out the victor! But Hatch recently found himself in a no-win situation when he was arrested and jailed on domestic assault charges filed by his ex-boyfriend. According to AP news reports, Hatch claims his ex showed up at his home and "flipped out" when he realized Hatch was seeing someone else. After the "flip out" was over, the ex-boyfriend had to be taken to the hospital and treated for face and neck injuries. One would think he'd have known better than to mess with a man who has no problem living on an island without food, shelter or clothing. A rule of thumb: If he will spear fish and eat bugs and dog food on TV, he will probably kick your ass if you show up "flipping out" on his doorstep. Hatch was released on $1,000 bond and is due back in court in early September for his hearing. Hatch stated, "I actually feel sorry for the guy, He is truly, truly, truly psychologically damaged." Hatch's love life however, is surviving nicely. His manager revealed that the "Survivor" will soon appear on the syndicated show "Blind Date" in the series' first-ever gay date. The show is tentatively set to air in November.

—Write to Dish@sovo.com

'Survivor' Richard Hatch reportedly beat an ex-boyfriend silly in an altercation that landed Hatch in jail and the ex in the hospital.



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TRAVEL TIPS FOR THOSE OUT & ABOUT

by ANDREW COLLINS

Colorful back roads of New England

Every October thousands of travelers motor up the back roads of New England for one singular but immensely satisfying sensation: to watch the region's breathtaking bounty of deciduous trees shed its leaves with all the panache of a Broadway chorus line.

As everybody knows, gays will travel just about anywhere in the name of a fine theatrical performance.

Connecticut's **LITCHFIELD COUNTY** and southwestern New Hampshire's **LAKE SUNAPEE** and **MONADNOCK** regions are particularly notable for not only their spectacular displays of fall foliage, but also their historic country inns and bed-and-breakfasts—many of them gay-friendly.

Keep in mind that peak leaf-coloring typically begins around the third or fourth weekends of September for southwestern New Hampshire, and in early October in Litchfield County. The season lasts about three weeks.

Litchfield County, in a hilly and largely countrified patch of northwestern Connecticut, contains a bounty of exquisitely preserved colonial hamlets, sophisticated restaurants, fine antiques shops, and scenic state parks. It's long been a second home to dozens of prominent glitterati (from Meryl Streep to Arthur Miller and Larry Kramer to Bill Blass).

There are no gay bars here (the closest ones are in the cities of Danbury and Waterbury, just south of the county), but many of the resolutely hip restaurants in these parts have a steady gay following. You'll find several appealing inns that A-list New Yorkers and gay Epicureans have been frequenting for years.

Each fall carloads of leaf peepers inundate the county. Among the many scenic roads that figure in this pilgrimage, **U.S. 7** (north from New Milford) meanders alongside the **Housatonic River**, passing historic covered bridges in **West Cornwall** and **Bulls Bridge**, and by rushing cascades at Kent Falls State Park.

In the eastern half of the county, fans of antiquing take their eyes off the changing leaves just long enough to browse the many shops of **Woodbury** and **New Preston**, while photographers drive or bicycle around the alpine-like waters of **Lake Waramaug**, snapping pictures at every turn.

You can also hike the rugged trails of the **Sharon Audubon Center**, the precipitous hills of **Mohawk Mountain State Park**, and the 4,000-acres of marsh and woodland at **White Memorial Foundation** in **Litchfield**—the largest nature preserve in the state.

Farther north, up near the Massachusetts border, gay and lesbian vacationers have long favored the **Manor House**, a handsome 1898 mansion built by Charles Spofford, the designer of London's subway system. It's one of the most romantic retreats in New England.

A fall drive through New England affords colorful scenery and quiet relaxation.

In the legendary antiquing center of **Woodbury**, the **Longwood Country Inn** occupies a late-18th-century house with six guest rooms and a fine Continental restaurant.

Although it's often overshadowed in the gay-travel press by its more liberal neighbor Vermont, New Hampshire has become increasingly tolerant in recent years.

The scenery here, especially come late September, can be as mesmerizing as any in New England. Particularly appealing are the two regions that cover the southwestern part of the state—the Monadnock mountains to the south, and the Lake Sunapee section north of it.

You won't find a gay scene in these parts, but several country inns actively court gay guests.

If you feel like clinking cocktail glasses with a few friends, just slip across the Connecticut River into the bohemian Vermont town of Brattleboro, where you'll find a friendly little gay bar called the Rainbow Cattle Company. There's also a small gay nightlife scene in New Hampshire's largest city, Manchester, about an hour's drive east.

A romantic 1797 farmstead just northeast of **Keene**, the **Post and Beam** makes a great base. The women who run this place know a lot about the area and can give you plenty of helpful advice on alluring foliage drives.

Northeast of **Peterborough**, the **Greenfield Inn** occupies a rambling 15-room Victorian mansion. Rooms have either private or shared baths and fairly simple but attractive furnishings. It's an excellent value.

In the **Lake Sunapee** area, the classic college towns of **Hanover** (Dartmouth College) and **New London** (Colby-Sawyer College) have the lion's share of commercial enterprises, including great eateries like the historic **Peter Christian's Tavern** and the laid-back pub **Murphy's**.

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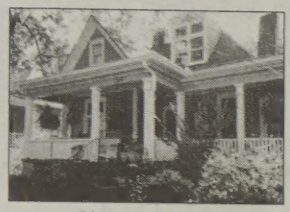

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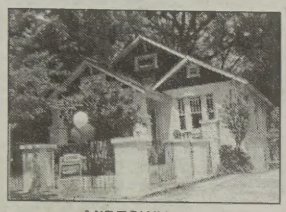

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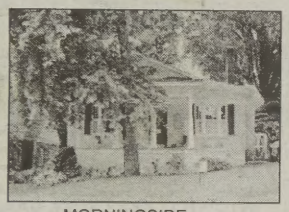

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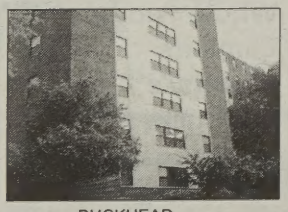

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT by DAMON FOWLER

Ode to okra

This curious stringy vegetable thrives in the Western hemisphere only where Africans have lived

Southerners who hate okra worry me. It's almost as bad as an Italian hating pasta, a Thai hating rice and fish, or a Mexican hating corn and chili peppers.

Okra is more than just a common element of the Southern table. It's more, even, than an icon of Southern food. In this seedpod of the African *hibiscus abelmoschus esculentus* is encapsulated the very essence of Southern cooking—that distinctive blending of Africa, Europe, and Native America in the Southern melting pot.

If you've ever seen okra growing, you can't hate it: It is one beautiful sight, its wide, hand-shaped leaves spreading finger-like tips in delicate fans, around butter yellow blooms splashed with burgundy at the center. The flower itself is one of the most brilliantly beautiful in all the hibiscus family.

The beauty is fleeting: Like most hibiscus blooms, it lasts only a day, but once it begins to fade, its real work is just beginning. Within a day or so, the seedpod develops in the protective mantel of those browning petals. Soon, otherworldly-looking ribbed cones of green push the remains of the flower away and point straight up toward the sun in slender spires every bit as lovely as the flower.

Every great beauty needs a mysterious past, and okra is no exception. No one knows for certain how it got here from Africa. There are legends aplenty, but most of them range from plausible but unlikely to outrageous—and often downright insulting to Americans of African descent.

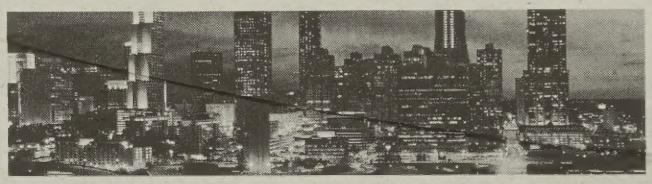
The one certainty is that African cooks introduced okra into Southern kitchens and hearts. The names "okra" and "gumbo" are derived from African words.

The ways it is used in Southern cooking are distinctly African in concept if not in exact execution; the fact that okra flourishes only where Africans have lived in the Western Hemisphere gives away Africans as the evangelists who spread the okra gospel.

With origins in Africa, okra today is a distinctive blending of African, European and Native American cuisine.

But the trouble isn't in the loveliness of the plant, the elusiveness of its history, or even who gets the credit for gumbo. The trouble starts when it comes to the table.

➢ Continued on Page 42



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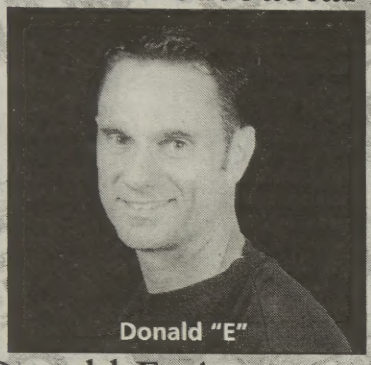

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Photos by Tim Wilkerson

Okra is undeniably Southern

➢ Continued from Page 41

While nothing in the Southern pot is as versatile as okra, nothing, it would seem, is as well loved and hated at the same time. Most Southerners will eat it in their vegetable soup or gumbo, and would think a summer without okra and tomatoes was not a summer worth living through.

Most will eat okra fried, but then—face it—some Southerners will eat shoe-leather if it's fried (and if you think I'm kidding, just remember the last crispy pork rind you put in your mouth).

The sticking place for okra-haters is just that—the sticky part. The viscous juice of this vegetable, particularly after it has been boiled to hell and back, is very mucilaginous.

The longer it cooks, the more it ropes and strings and resembles things you don't want to talk about at the table. A lot of people draw the line when the okra gets boiled until it is swimming in goo.

But that's not a bad vegetable—that's just bad cooking, and bad cooking isn't the okra's fault. So if you think you are one of those okra haters, here's the recipe to get you over this handicap. Get into the kitchen and cook up a batch right now: Our national heritage is at stake.

Whole Baby Okra in Olive Oil

This recipe was an old one when Mary Randolph set it down in 1824. She called it "a West-Indian receipt." The only thing I've added is a touch of garlic and an optional splash of olive oil.

Serves 4

1 1/2 pounds fresh, very small okra pods (each no more than 2 inches long)

1 large or 2 small cloves garlic, crushed and peeled

2 tablespoons butter or extra virgin olive oil

Salt and whole black pepper in a peppermill

1. Wash okra under cold running water, gently rubbing to remove outer fuzz. Drain well and trim off stems, leaving the caps intact. Set aside.

2. Put okra, garlic and 1 tablespoon of butter or olive oil in a lidded, heavy-bottomed skillet or shallow pan that will hold all the okra in one layer. Add a healthy pinch of salt, a generous grinding of pepper, and 1/4 cup water. Cover tightly.

3. Place pan over medium high heat, and cook for 4 minutes, shaking pan occasionally. Make sure liquid does not completely evaporate. Turn off heat. Pour okra into shallow bowl, drizzle with pan juices and remaining oil, taste and adjust seasonings, and serve hot or at room temperature.

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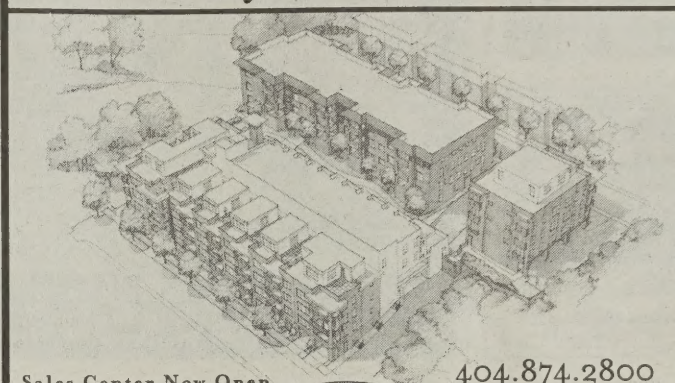

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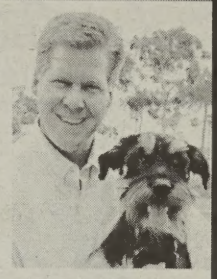

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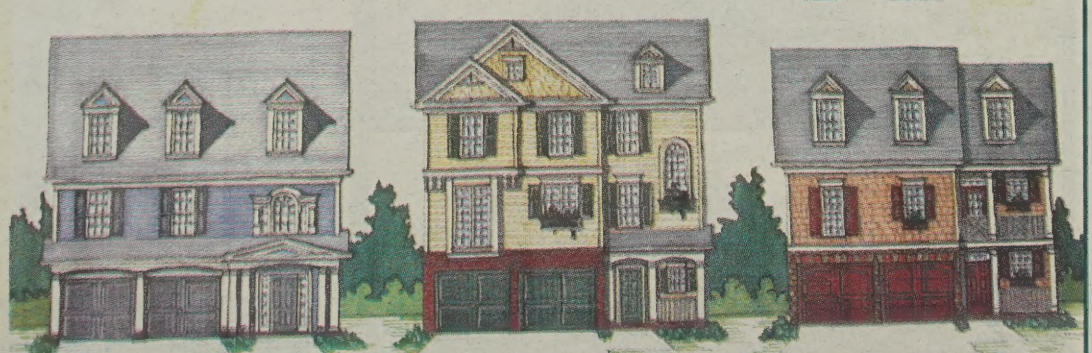

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my stars

by CHARLENE LICHTENSTEIN

Aug. 30 – Sept. 5

The Sun changes signs from pushy Leo to practical Virgo. Consolidate gains before you diversify. This Virgo energy shows you how to become a well-endowed benefactor. Or maybe just a benefactor.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
The Sun helps to make your work easier, so get to work! Gay Rams must now toss out any baggage that lowers their confidence. Forget that self flagellation, unless, of course, you like it that way.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
As the Sun moves into Virgo, your passion for fun, creativity and romance with a certain special someone is intense. Write a love letter or dance up a storm. And while you're at it, buy a lottery ticket. Luck is also highlighted. Hey, you never know.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
How about a little "spring cleaning," even though it's August? Conquer any home based project with verve and commitment, no matter how nasty. Pink Twins can also tackle family issues. Be your dear queer self and let others adjust. No compromises.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Gay Crabs communicate well and now have the diplomacy to win hearts and minds. The planets also highlight community efforts and relationships with neighbors. Take it to the streets, cousin, and you'll have followers.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Proud Leos seem to have a clearer sense of what fiscal responsibility means and may even consider saving for a rainy day. Research your fiscal goal and toss out what no longer works for you. Then make a million in the market and retire!

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Gay Virgins now have so much confidence with the Sun in their own sign that it seems out of character. Such a nice change of pace! Make the most of it before the sun moves on and you selflessly fade into the background once again.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Give your all to gay causes and charities; Good things will come of these efforts for both gays and for you. In addition, the Sun unlocks and opens your closet and pushes you out into the open. Freedom at last! Ain't life grand?

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 – NOV. 22)
Surround yourself with affirming friends, proud Scorp. Pals are there for you and vice versa as you fit well into the group dynamic and feel at one with the cause. Long term goals are also highlighted; that means planning more than one week ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Rainbow Archers can finally see the professional playing field clearly and accurately. Play the politico and climb one more rung on the corporate ladder. Remember to be kind and generous to those of us that you will have to step on on your way up. Ouch.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Sun in Virgo highlights travel and faraway exotic locales. Gay Goats should make the most of this ambitious energy; It is also an opportune time for you to finish off any legal fights or entanglements. You are more judicious so rest your case. The jury is out!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
The planets stir up your sexual drive this week and even removed Aqueerians can't resist this heated surge. Prepare for a late summer romance that has the legs (among other parts) to go the distance through the winter. But don't just settle for a pretty face.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)
Partners are there for you and have not given up on the relationship despite your hesitations and wandering eye. For those rainbow trouts still angling to get caught, the next four weeks will make you shake, bake and steam. Just be sure to use the right bait.

For entertainment purposes only. For more information on Charlene Lichtenstein, including her new book, "HerScopes: A Guide to Astrology for Lesbians," visit www.AccessNewAge.com/Stargayzer.

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t Plans Schools

'This is by and large a creation of [one activist] and apparently just a means to gay bash.'

—Beth Littrell, director of the ACLU's safe schools project, responding to a Glynn County panel with the above title.

packed the school's gymnasium. McCoy said Arrington distributed anti-gay brochures to a crowd of close to 400 people.

Included on a panel discussion at the meeting were activists who had previously worked to promote anti-gay legislation.

"There's clearly a political agenda and has been for years by gay extremists," panelist Carolyn Crosby told the *Florida Times-Union*. Crosby was founder of a group that worked to ban the recognition of same-sex marriages in Maine.

While the *Times-Union*, based in Jacksonville, Fla., offered a straightforward account of the issue, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation said it fears Glynn County gay bashers have the support of the local media in Brunswick.

"A group of Glynn County residents is out to stop the spread of militant homosexual propaganda it fears could soon infiltrate the hallways of public schools," read the lead of reporter Josh Rayburn's Aug. 20 story in the *Brunswick News*.

Kevin McClelland, GLAAD regional media director, said he sent a letter to the *Brunswick News* concerning its coverage of the story.

"There are basic tenants of journalism which this reporter violates at every turn," McClelland said. "By using blatant anti-gay

➢ Continued on Page 6

INSIDE

Openly gay state Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale) may get a reprieve from a redistricting proposal that would pit her against a GOP incumbent, but the battle isn't over yet.

Page 3

Chatham County police say John Blaine Williams has confessed 'several times' to killing his male partner in a domestic dispute last week.

Page 6

Author James Earl Hardy will read from his new novel, 'The Day Eazy-E Died,' at Outwrite Bookstore on Sunday, just in time for Black Gay Pride crowds.

Page 13,15

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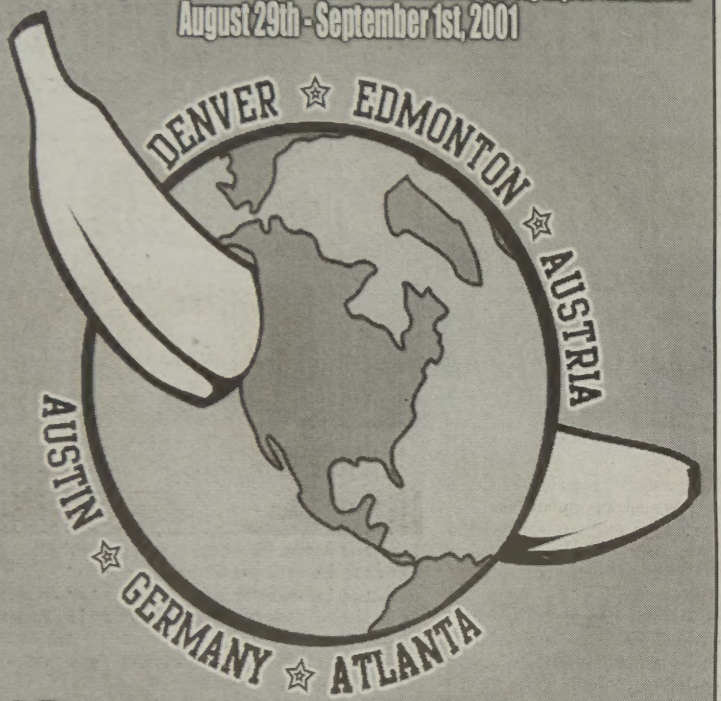

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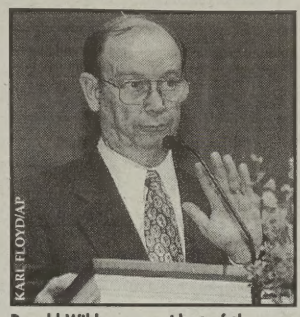
Same-sex Census numbers rile MS conservatives

TUPELO, Miss.—Census figures released last week show reported same-sex "unmarried partners" in Mississippi increased 609 percent from the 1990 Census to the 2000 count. But conservatives in the state say the numbers—and the gay residents they represent—should have little impact. "This tiny fraction of the population is demanding that the overwhelming majority of Americans change their beliefs on human sexuality, marriage and family simply to suit the homosexual agenda," American Family Association President Donald Wildmon said in a statement last week. Data from the 2000 Census showed 4,774 same-sex couples in the state. All 82 counties in the state reported at least one gay couple. The numbers from Mississippi were part of the last batch of state-by-state data made public by the U.S. Census Bureau. More than 601,000 same-sex couples across the country listed their households on the Census, with at least one in 99 percent of counties nationwide.

For more on this story, visit www.sovo.com.


KARL FLOYD/AP

Donald Wildmon, president of the Mississippi-based American Family Association, claimed Census figures show gays to be a 'tiny fraction of the population' who want heterosexuals to change their beliefs to fit 'the homosexual agenda.'

Use 'political rights' to gain power, Frank tells KY gays

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—During a fund-raiser for the Kentucky Fairness Alliance, U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) urged listeners to lobby Congress if they want equal rights for gay men and lesbians. "Use political rights to gain political power," Frank said Saturday to more than 200 people at the Kentucky Theatre. "We have changed America," the openly gay congressman said. "People thought they were supposed to be homophobic. We liberated them from that idea." Before Frank's speech, the Kentucky Fairness Alliance—which lobbies for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people—sponsored a $50-per-person reception. Within the last year, gay and lesbian ordinances have come before city leaders in Lexington, Louisville and Henderson.

Dallas mayor hints at senate bid in talk to gay Dems

DALLAS—Gay-friendly Mayor Ron Kirk was only midway through his appearance before the Stonewall Democratic Club last week when members began addressing him as Senator Kirk. He didn't discourage them, according to the *Dallas Morning News*. He didn't disappoint the 60 or so Democrats who had squeezed into a corner of Rolando's Mexican restaurant. "He definitely left the door wide open," Tim McMullen-Sullivan, president of the gay Stonewall Democrats, told the newspaper. McMullen-Sullivan said he expects Kirk to make an announcement soon after finishing his next campaign: the one to sell Dallas voters on creating a trust fund for the 2012 Olympics. As elections approach next year, Kirk's actions as well as his words suggest that he is seriously testing the waters for a run against powerhouse incumbent Sen. Phil Gramm. His appearance before the Stonewall Democrats was the first time he had talked to the group since he first ran for mayor in 1995. "Part of me is intrigued with the idea" of a Senate bid, Kirk said. "But part of me is intrigued about paying bills and sending my kids to college."

around the south

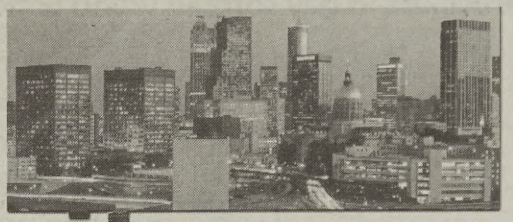
AR learns fed money for AIDS meds won't happen

LITTLE ROCK (AP)—A group that anticipated getting money to help pay for medications for people with AIDS said Monday that it won't get the federal help after all. That means HIV-positive Arkansans must continue to rely on drug companies to provide free or low-cost AIDS-fighting medication, the group said. The Arkansas Health Department thought it could use $907,200 in state dollars from the federal Ryan White AIDS Drug Assistance Program to pay for AIDS drugs. It was intended that a grant from the office of Gov. Mike Huckabee would be matched 4-to-1 by funds in a federal program. "We found out Sunday that Arkansas in fact did not get this 4-to-1 federal grant," said Eric Camp, with the Arkansas AIDS Drug Assistance Program working group. Ann Wright, spokeswoman for the Health Department, confirmed that it's not getting the money but said they're still gathering details. Some 120 other eligible people have been on a waiting list for the past decade for the medications.

United Way in TX may lose funds over Scouts, gays

GALVESTON, Texas—Despite a threat of losing an annual donation of more than $100,000, the United Way of Galveston will continue to give money to the Boy Scouts under a policy adopted last week, according to the *Galveston Daily News*. The issue arose when directors at the Kempner Fund told local United Way officers that they would not donate this year if the organization continued to support the local Boy Scouts of America council. Officials at the Kempner Fund cited a Boys Scout policy that prohibits gay members as their reason. Fund directors said they would allocate $110,000—$5,000 more than last year—but would give it directly to the other United Way member agencies. The United Way board adopted a position statement that allows agencies that receive funds, like the Scouts, to set their membership requirements. "In my book it's discrimination," said Betty Massey, a United Way board member. "If their policy said black people couldn't be part of the organization we wouldn't even be having this discussion."

—From staff and wire reports



city gaze

Barbecue and politics open eyes of gay voters

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

DECATUR—If Sunday was any indication, gay voters are starting to pay attention.

About 300 people crowded the patio of My Sister's Room to hear a not-so-surprising list of endorsements from Georgia Equality for a handful of Atlanta City Council posts. And then folks mingled with vote-seeking politicians—endorsed by Georgia Equality or not—and snacked on barbecue and chocolate chip cookies.

The gathering was less about making news and more about making a statement: It's less than 10 weeks before Election Day and voters are starting to take interest in what candidates have to say.

The crowd on Sunday nearly doubled the number of people who attended a mayoral forum less than two weeks earlier. Hopefully, that's a sign gay voters are getting engaged.

The gay issues are there—an equal benefits ordinance for the city of Atlanta, funding for the newly-created Human Relations Commission, including gays at the top of a new mayoral administration, the city's lingering efforts to clamp down on nightlife—and candidates are speaking to them in big ways.

The top three candidates to replace Mayor Bill Campbell—Spelman professor and former City Council member Gloria Bromell-Tinubu, management consultant and former city administrator Shirley Franklin, and City Council President Robb Pitts—spent about 70 minutes Aug. 16 answering gay-specific questions during a forum sponsored by the Atlanta Executive Network.

On Sunday, several candidates worked My Sister's Room, handing out campaign brochures, business cards and making pitches to, well, anyone who would listen.

The candidates included Sean Waites, who can deliver a high-octane mini-stump speech without taking a breath. Waites spent time working the crowd of Georgia Equality supporters despite not receiving the group's endorsement.

She represents an interesting dilemma for the statewide gay group and gay voters alike: Waites is one of three declared candidates for Atlanta City Council At-Large Post 1, and one of two gay candidates, making a gay versus gay race that's unheard of in city politics.

Waites joins openly gay businessman and neighborhood activist Paul Zucca and heterosexual attorney Ceasar Mitchell, also a strong gay rights supporter, in the race. And like the three mayoral candidates, and others campaigning for City Council, all three canvassed for votes in June's Gay Pride parade.

Georgia Equality and its group of volunteer screeners settled on Zucca earlier this month, basing their choice on his overall understanding of gay and municipal issues, the group said.

Waites, though, is the one candidate in the Post 1 race that has stepped into the city's fight to lasso the area's bars and clubs. She stands with clubs like Backstreet, which oppose a new ordinance from the City Council ordering the all-night clubs to curtail operating hours. In return, Waites has received the backing of performers at Backstreet and club owners, who sent her a $1,500 campaign check.

But if that gay versus gay choice wasn't tough enough, the endorsement Georgia Equality issued on Sunday—Nana Nyarko in District 1—left the only gay candidate in the race, Malcolm Gideons, scratching his head. The group endorsed Gideons in a

➢ Continued on Page 6

Gay rep may get redistricting reprieve

Proposed new map would avoid putting Drenner in a multi-member district with a gay rights opponent

by LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

ATLANTA—New district maps proposed in the state House of Representatives on Monday would spare Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale) from facing a conservative Republican incumbent in her next election.

But Georgia's only openly gay state legislator says her seat isn't safe yet.

"'Happy' is not a way to characterize what I feel right now," Drenner said. "I still need help with votes, volunteers and money ... but compared to what I was offered, I have a much brighter potential opportunity here."

The original House redistricting map approved by the General Assembly two weeks ago would have put Drenner in a three-post "multi-member" district with gay-friendly Rep. Stephanie Stuckey (D-Decatur) and Rep. Paul Jennings (R-Atlanta), a gay rights opponent.

But in a move that shocked both Democrats and Republicans, Gov. Roy Barnes last week refused to sign the new maps into law, citing concerns about possible minority vote dilution in two districts—Drenner's and that of Rep. Nan Orrock (D-Atlanta), also a gay rights supporter.

Drenner said Barnes' office offered her two alternatives: a new single-member district with different boundaries, or going into a two-post district with Stuckey and Jennings. That scenario, she said, would have likely put her in a face off with Jennings on the next ballot, almost ensuring that her sexual orientation would be made an issue to defeat her in the race.

In response to the governor's proposal, gay rights activists launched a national e-mail campaign urging Drenner's supporters to contact Barnes—a rumored presidential contender in 2004—to tell him that failing to protect Drenner's district could hurt his own political aspirations by alienating gay voters.

"It's my understanding the governor has received thousands of e-mails and phone calls, and I think they have made a tremendous difference," Drenner said.

A spokeswoman for Barnes confirmed Tuesday that they had received e-mails about the issue, but did not respond to questions about Barnes' position on Drenner's district.

The new bill introduced in the House Reapportionment Committee on Monday places Drenner in a new single-member district, sparing her from a match-up with Jennings. He would go into a new two-post district with Stuckey, which means the two would not actually run against each other, Drenner said.

But while the new proposal offers Drenner a better chance at re-election, the issue isn't over yet.

A motion to "engross" the bill containing the new map, making it immune to changes during floor debate, failed to pass the House on Tuesday by eight votes. Votes in favor of the motion outnumbered votes against it 83-71, but 91 votes were needed for it to pass.

At press time Tuesday, Drenner said the maps could see discussion and a vote as early as Wednesday, although the debate could also extend into next week.

"I would hope [my supporters] will continue doing what they are doing until I have a final map in my hands," Drenner said. "Until then, it is all still up for grabs."

The new District 56 proposed for Drenner, like her current District 66, would be majority African-American. While that could lead to an African-American challenger in the Democratic primary, Drenner said she is less concerned about that possibility than a race against Jennings.

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Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale) says new districts introduced this week give her a better chance at re-election, but the battle isn't over until the map is passed by the General Assembly and signed by Gov. Roy Barnes.

A challenger "is always a possibility anytime you are the opposite of whatever you represent," Drenner said. "But I represent a majority black district now, and I have given good constituent services and represented the district well.

"In politics, the way to prevent challenges is to raise money, and I intend to raise money aggressively as soon as this session is over, so anyone will know we are ready to fight," Drenner said.

The new proposed map would add the majority-Republican Montreal precinct, currently represented by Jennings, to Drenner's district, she said. She would also pick up half of the North Decatur precinct, and lose the parts of the Jolly and Memorial North precincts she currently represents.

Drenner's home precinct, Covington Highway, would also be split.

Under the first redistricting plan, Orrock would have gone into a four-post multi-member district with two other gay-friendly Atlanta Democrats, Reps. Jim Martin and Kathy Ashe. Orrock is also assigned to a new single-member district under the pending redistricting bill, Drenner said.

Orrock could not be reached for comment by press time.

Changes to the current 180 House districts, as well as state Senate districts and districts for the U.S. Congress, were made necessary by population shifts revealed in the 2000 Census.

Barnes and Democratic leaders have worked to create the new multi-member House districts in order to increase the number of seats representing majority-Democratic areas, in hopes of ensuring continued Democratic control of the state General Assembly.

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- *jumpiness, irritability, or outbursts of anger*
- *excessive worry*
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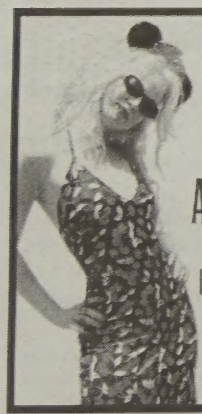

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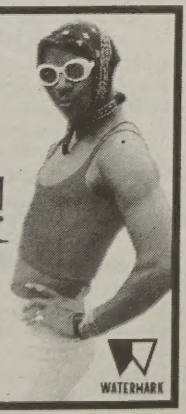
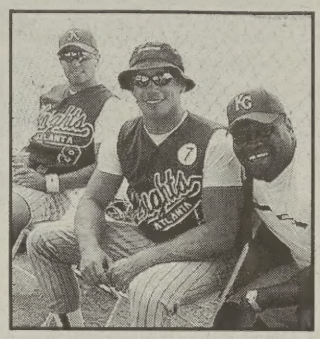


ATL teams participate in gay softball World Series

SAN FRANCISCO—Nine teams from Atlanta's gay Hotlanta Softball League joined hundreds of players from around the country in competing in the recent National American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance World Series, held Aug. 11-14 in San Francisco. The Atlanta Power and Atlanta Sluggers competed in the A division, the Atlanta A's competed in level B and Blake's Blue Knights and the Atlanta Comets competed in the C division. The women's competitive division featured the Atlanta Blaze, Heat and Dramanotz, while the women's alternative division included the Atlanta team Gamma Alpha PSI. None of the teams actually took home trophies, but Hotlanta officials say the event was still a huge success. "It's important to our community because it offers individuals a chance to break down stereotypes," said Richy Howard, HSL commissioner. "And more importantly, it offers a safe, encouraging atmosphere for gays and lesbians to learn and participate in the game." This was the league's 25th World Series, with 135 teams and 2,500 players competing. The winners of this year's series came from Florida and California. For the fifth year in a row, the LA Stray Cats won A level play. Another Los Angeles team, the LA Destroyers, won the B division. Teams from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., cleaned up in both the C and women's alternative divisions. The Long Beach, Calif., "Yes I Am" team won the women's competitive division.

—Jennifer Christensen



The Atlanta Knights joined 11 other teams from Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia that participated in the gay Softball World Series.

UGA gay group hosts annual fall reception

ATHENS, Ga.— The annual fall reception for the University of Georgia's gay employee group will take place Sept. 6 at the Founder's Garden Clubhouse, on the university's North Campus. In its seventh year, the reception welcomes returning and new UGA employees, administrators, students, faculty and friends. The Athens community is also invited. Doc Eldridge, Athens-Clarke County mayor, will deliver the customary greeting and Bob Whitelaw, an openly gay candidate for the state legislature's District 47 seat, will also speak. Complimentary food and beverages will be provided. Various organizations concerned with gay issues will also be on display, along with the latest edition of "Family & Friends," an Athens guide to gay life in the "Classic City." This year's agenda for GLOBES—Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Employees & Supporters—will include continued participation in a statewide task force to achieve domestic partnership benefits for the entire University System as well as efforts to obtain benefits for partners to use the Ramsey Student Center, according to Nancy MacNair, a member on the GLOBES steering committee. Additionally, GLOBES will continue to work for the establishment of a LGBT Affairs office on campus, with a fully funded professional staff. The organization also sponsors monthly presentations and has lined up Wanda and Brenda Henson, of Camp Sister Spirit in Miss., and Dr. Robert Hill, an adult education faculty member, to speak.

—Andrew Keegan

INFO

GLOBES Fall Reception
Sept. 6, 5-8 p.m.
University of Georgia
Founder's Garden Clubhouse,
North Campus
Lumpkin Street, Athens, Ga.
706-546-4611
www.arches.edu.uga/~globes98/home.html

atlanta/ga. news

Weekend events benefit Savannah Gay Pride

SAVANNAH, Ga.— Savannah's second Pride Festival is only two weeks away and a variety of fund-raisers are planned leading up to the all-day event, scheduled for Sept. 15. The weekend before the festival has been dubbed "Pre-Pride Weekend" with fund-raising events each day. On Sept. 7, a $5 cover will supply all the Coors beer you can drink at Face's Bar. Lubrication will be the theme on Sept. 8 at Club One for a Wet party, sponsored by festival sponsor Wet International. For those seeking an alternative to bar events, a gay bingo is planned for Sept. 9 at St. Luke's Church. Proceeds from all three fund-raisers will benefit Savannah Pride 2001, according to Holly Gitlin, site coordinator for the pride festival. "We're expecting about the same amount of people as last year, around 1,500," said Gitlin. Entertainment for the festival will include comedienne Michele Balan from Toronto and cabaret singer Michael Vaccaro from New York. Additional performers include the Lady Chablis, a Savannah favorite, and Mr. Charlie Brown, an Atlanta drag queen known for an X-rated cabaret show.

—Andrew Keegan

INFO

Savannah Pride Festival
- Sept. 7, 'All you can drink'
Face's Bar, $5 cover
- Sept. 8, Wet party
Club One, $4 cover
- Sept. 9, Gay Bingo
St. Luke's Church
- Sept. 15, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Pride Festival
Roundhouse
912-920-9421
www.savannah-pride.com

Gay group announces City Council endorsements

Georgia Equality gives nod to gay candidate for City Council president, but goes for gay-friendly over gay in District 1

by ERIN O'BRIANT

ATLANTA—Georgia's first openly gay elected official got support in her bid for higher office while two other openly gay candidates were passed over when Georgia Equality, a statewide gay political group, announced its full slate of Atlanta City Council endorsements on Sunday.

Openly gay City Council member Cathy Woolard earned the group's endorsement in her bid for City Council president.

But Georgia Equality sided with Nana Nyarko over openly gay candidate Malcolm Gideons for the City Council's District 1 seat, and chose Mary Norwood over gay candidate John R. Williams for the at-large Post 2 seat.

Williams was a late entry into the race.

The group announced the endorsements at its annual barbecue at My Sister's Room in Decatur, attended by about 300 people, including several candidates.

Some observers expressed surprise that Georgia Equality endorsed Nyarko over Gideons because the group endorsed Gideons in his first bid for the District 1 seat four years ago.

"I am slightly disappointed that I didn't get it because we worked so hard for it and we thought we proved ourselves last time," Gideons said.

"We're going to keep on fighting for every vote from the gay community and everybody in District 1," he said. "The thing that puzzles us is that we have a record—we're the only ones who have run before."

But Harry Knox, Georgia Equality's executive director, said Nyarko is "great" on issues affecting gay men and lesbians.

"It really came down to who would give the best leadership to the district," Knox said.

"The district in the past has been relatively polarized," he said. "The primarily white section on the North doesn't have a lot to do with primarily black section in South [and vice versa]. Nana really presented the best case that she understood the entire district and wanted to work for everyone in the district regardless of their background and race."

In 1997, Gideons pushed incumbent City Council member Vern McCarty into a run-off before losing by less than 10 percent of the vote. But Knox said this time around, Georgia Equality had doubts about Gideons' viability.

"Malcolm's approach in the interview process was really a very passive one," Knox said. "Our volunteers are really looking for leadership and people who are serious about solving problems."

Nyarko said she is "overjoyed" to receive Georgia Equality's endorsement.

"I hope that I was successful in conveying to them that I'm not a civil rights activist, I'm not a gay rights activist, I'm a human rights activist," she said.

"[Gays] pay taxes; they have a right to be treated fairly, to domestic partner benefits, to not be victims of hate crimes, to not be discriminated against with faith-based initiatives...," she said.

In contrast to the District 1 endorsement, no one expressed surprise that Georgia Equality awarded Woolard its endorsement for City Council president. The openly gay City Council member has provided more effective leadership around gay issues than anyone else in the city of Atlanta, Knox said.

Woolard was a plaintiff in the successful lawsuit to force Georgia Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine to approve domestic partner benefits for Atlanta city employees, and she sponsored a successful City Council ordinance that banned anti-gay discrimination in private businesses in Atlanta.

She faces fellow Council members Michael Bond, Julia Emmons and "Able" Mable Thomas in the City Council president race.

"Clearly [Woolard] is head and shoulders about everyone in her race on gay issues," Knox said. "The other piece of it is, she turns out to be the most knowledgeable about the broad range of issues facing the city and of all candidates had the clearest vision for how to go about solving the city's problems and maximizing the city's strengths."

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

Openly gay City Council member Cathy Woolard surprised no one in receiving Georgia Equality's endorsement in the race for Atlanta City Council president.

Woolard said she is excited about receiving the endorsement and added that she plans to continue to look for ways to include gay men and lesbians in the Atlanta city government.

Bond said he has supported gay issues on the City Council and he will work to educate gay voters about his stands, while Emmons said she "enjoyed" the Georgia Equality interview process.

Thomas did not respond to an interview request.

Georgia Equality has also endorsed Shirley Franklin for mayor, Natalyn Archibong in City Council District 5, openly lesbian candidate Anne Fauver in District 6, H. Lamar Willis in at-large Post 3, and openly gay candidate Paul Zucca over openly lesbian opponent Sean Waites in at-large Post 1.

ACTION!info

Georgia Equality
P. O. Box 78351
Atlanta, GA 30357-2351
404-872-3600
www.georgiaequality.org

Bias panel continues probe into gay case

Human Relations Commission received initial bias investigation report, planned complaint procedures this week

by ERIN O'BRIANT

ATLANTA—The city's Human Relations Commission met Tuesday to review the initial investigation report on the panel's first bias complaint, an anti-gay harassment case filed by John Snyder against Johnson & Johnson subsidiary Ethicon.

But the report turned in by local attorney Debbie Floyd, hired by the commission to investigate the complaint, contained a verification of information the panel had already received and did not determine whether discrimination had actually occurred, according to Ken Britt, the commission's only openly gay member.

"It was a two-page report and it really was a review of and verification of the findings in the complaint," said Britt. "[The investigator] went through the complaint and said, 'Yes this happened' and 'The company said this and that.'"

The initial report cannot be released due to attorney-client privilege, Britt said.

Britt said the panel has asked the investigator to submit a final report at its next meeting, tentatively scheduled for Oct. 2. "Then we'll decide according to the ordinance whether or not the board thinks we need to go to a hearing phase or if we think the complaint should be resolved by other methods [such as] mediation, conciliation," Britt said.

If the commission decides a hearing is necessary, both parties will be invited to preliminary hearings. "It will be a formal hearing just like in a courtroom," he said.

Britt said the commission has hired the same outside investigator to work on its second bias complaint, a sexual harassment allegation that is not gay-related. He said a report on the second complaint will also be turned in at the October meeting.

Commission members also reviewed procedures for filing bias complaints during Tuesday's meeting, Britt said. "The ordinance doesn't go specifically in detail about how we need to do this so we've been doing research and have come up with some ideas," he said. "We reviewed procedures for filing and a proposed form for the actual reports from the investigators."

The initial bias complaint filed by Snyder against Ethicon claims he suffered harassment after an anti-gay remark was made during a company meeting.

Snyder decided to pursue his case before both the commission and in Fulton County Superior Court because the two avenues offer two different kinds of relief if an employer is found guilty, said Jane Morrison, an openly gay Atlanta attorney representing him.

In both cases, Snyder claims he was "accosted and subjected to personal harassment" after Andrew Tosdevin, Ethicon's product director, allegedly used the term "packer" during a formal presentation to sales representatives. According to Snyder's complaint, "the term 'packer' is abbreviated from the full slang term 'shit packer' or 'fudge packer.'"

Representatives from Ethicon's headquarters in Somerville, N.J., have said the company does not discriminate and denied any wrongdoing in Snyder's case.

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

The city of Atlanta's Human Relations Commission's investigation into its first bias complaint is ongoing, said openly gay panel member Ken Britt.

INFO

Atlanta Human Relations Commission
Atlanta City Hall
55 Trinity Ave. SW
Atlanta, GA 30335
www.ci.atlanta.ga.us

To file a bias complaint in Atlanta
Rhonda Johnson
Atlanta Municipal Clerk
55 Trinity Ave. SW, Suite 2700
Atlanta, GA 30335
404-330-6031

Gay Savannah man charged with killing partner

Accused killer was deeply closeted local assistant principal, local gays say

by ERIN O'BRIANT

SAVANNAH, Ga.—A Savannah-area high school assistant principal has been charged with murder in the slaying of his partner, middle school teacher Robert J. Allen.

Police said John Blaine Williams confessed "several times" to killing Allen.

Gay residents of the coastal city said they were "saddened" by the killing, adding that few were aware Williams and Allen were gay.

Neighbors discovered Allen's body shortly before 6:30 a.m. on Aug. 22, police said. Allen and Williams shared an apartment in Georgetown Crossing.

Cpl. Mike Wilson, public information officer for the Chatham County Police Department, said Allen died as a result of manual and ligature strangulation.

Neighbors of the couple had heard a disturbance earlier in the morning.

"The neighbors went to the apartment, knocked on the door, couldn't get an answer and finally were able to get in," said Capt. Bob Merriman, a county police supervisor. Williams was lying on the couch bleeding from self-inflicted wounds and Allen was dead in the bedroom, Merriman said.

Williams was treated and released at a local hospital and then interviewed by local police, Merriman said. Williams then confessed several times to the slaying of Allen, he said.

A police statement noted that the "roommates" had quarreled following a parting of ways.

"Investigators have determined that Allen was killed as a result of a domestic altercation and that Williams was injured immediately following the dispute," police said. "The nature of the dispute is being investigated."

Local gay rights activist Kevin Clark, co-chair of Savannah's First City Network, said that Allen and Williams were gay. Police have declined to discuss the men's sexual orientation.

Savannah-area resident John Blaine Williams (left) remains in custody; police said he confessed 'several times' to the slaying of his partner, Robert J. Allen (right), last week.

Reports in the *Savannah Morning News* referred to the pair as a "couple," but stopped short of stating that the two were gay.

"We are saddened and shocked by the violence," Clark added. "In that form and fashion [it] is a horrible thing—we hate to see that it happened."

Clark said members of First City Network who had professional contact with Williams were surprised to learn that he was in a same-sex relationship.

"People who knew both [men], some knew they were in a relationship, but many, many people in the community didn't even know they were gay, which I find startling and amazing," Clark said.

Williams worked at Johnson High School; Allen was a special education teacher at Bartlett Middle School.

Williams has appeared in a preliminary hearing, but officials at the Chatham County District Attorney's office would not elaborate on the case.

Staff at the county recorder's court said Williams' information had not yet been entered in the computer system.

Reporter used 'obvious slant' in covering story

➢ Continued from Page 1

slurs as part of the reporter's commentary, it violates not only the rules of journalism, but the rules of respect for the readers in Brunswick who are in the lesbian and gay community."

Rayburn would not comment about the article or GLAAD's concerns, other than to say he has not yet received the letter from McClelland. The paper's editor, Kerry Klumpe, did not return phone calls requesting an interview.

No protests at health summit

It appeared to be no coincidence that the meeting of the Glynn County Advisory Council came only four days before the first annual Southeast Regional Gay Men's Health Summit on nearby Jekyll Island, also in Glynn County.

Before setting sites on the ACLU's schools project, Arrington attempted to rally local opposition to the health summit. McCoy said rumors circulated before the summit speculating that Arrington, the advisory council and area churches were going to stage protests.

Yet those rumors proved unfounded as more than 100 men attended the summit to discuss health concerns of gay men, including HIV and many other issues.

Jeff Wilkinson, a member of the planning committee of the summit, said there were no protests during the weekend event, which he said may have actually been helped by the controversy Arrington attempted to create.

Press coverage of conservative concerns helped "because of the increased visibility and exposure to the summit taking place," Wilkinson said. "Certainly also... it reinforced the need to have a summit to come together to look at gay men's health issues, knowing that we are still facing opposition and ignorance in the community at large."

While there were no actual protests during the summit, there was evidence of the lingering local homophobia. Wilkinson said during a break from the summit, a plane circled over the host hotel for an hour with a banner trailing behind it that read "Jesus Christ: Hope for Homosexuals.com."

That Internet address takes you to the Web site for the Family Policy Network. According to a letter posted there, FPN along with the South Georgia chapter of the American Family Association contracted the airplane.

Gays hope controversy won't spread

Talk of the controversy in Glynn County has hurried up the coast to nearby Savannah where gay activists said they were shocked at the uproar concerning the health summit.

"We're just flabbergasted that anyone could raise any kind of objections to what the goals were for the weekend [health summit]," said Kevin Clark, co-chair of the first City Network, Savannah's gay activist group.

Still, Clark said he is not worried the homophobia from Glynn County will penetrate Savannah, where he said the majority of people are tolerant and more open-minded.

Leaders with Georgia Equality, a statewide bipartisan gay political group, also said they aren't overly concerned homophobia will consume the county, although two state legislators from the area are already known for anti-gay views.

State Sen. Tommie Williams (R-Lyons) is always on the opposing side of any pro-gay legislation, according to Harry Knox, Georgia Equality's executive director. State Rep. Jerry Keen (R-St. Simons) was one of 24 representatives who signed a letter earlier this year opposing the teaching of "diversity, multiculturalism and tolerance" in Georgia schools.

Neither state legislator could be reached for comment by press time.

"They're more likely to follow what they perceive to be the attitude of their constituents rather than to try to educate and lead their constituents on this issue," Knox said.

Meanwhile, controversy over gay issues in Glynn County will likely continue as school board members face a decision on a request to ban books including "The Catcher in the Rye," which contains multiple uses of profanity and references to homosexuality and drinking alcohol.

The Glynn County School Board will discuss the issue again at its Sept. 10 meeting.

ACTION!info

Glynn County Board of Education
1313 Egmont St.
Brunswick, GA 31520
call: 912-267-4100
fax: 912-265-2001

Brunswick News
P.O. Box 1557
Brunswick, GA 31521
912-265-8320
www.thebrunswicknews.com

Gay vs. gay presents dilemma

➢ Continued from Page 3

District 1 race four years ago.

Georgia Equality also tapped a straight candidate over a gay one in its endorsement in the city-wide Post 2 race earlier this month: Mary Norwood over gay filmmaker John R. Williams. The race also includes candidates William Costa and Sidney Wood.

In an expected move, the group put its clout behind Cathy Woolard, the come-from-behind candidate who captured the District 6 council seat four years ago. She's now attempting to springboard her support—both gay and straight—into the council president's post.

Woolard, the architect of the city's sweeping anti-bias ordinance passed last year, faces an uphill campaign against City Councilmember Michael Bonds. Julia Emmons and Able Mable Thomas are also vying for the post.

The political races present a host of options for gay voters—six openly gay candidates and several gay-friendly ones. Most have progressed beyond talking *to* gay voters and starting a conversation *with* them about important issues. Gays are starting to take note and pay attention.

But above the endorsements and beyond the stump speeches of Sunday, a more critical message surfaced from the dais, one hopefully heard above the clatter of conversation. Once gay candidates turn into openly gay officeholders, voters must continue to stay tuned in.

If not, people like state Rep. Karla Drenner, Georgia's only openly gay state lawmaker, could get left behind. She's facing a tough battle with Gov. Roy Barnes over the future of her DeKalb County legislative district, one that threatens her re-election efforts next year.

At the barbecue, Harry Knox, Georgia Equality's executive director, tried to rally volunteers and money for Drenner. It's a message, regardless of any debate over the group's endorsements, that should resonate.

"Karla Drenner, just by her mere presence in the state legislature, riles the shit out of people," Knox said.

"City Gaze" is an occasional column that covers the people, issues and impact of gays in metro Atlanta. If you have comments or suggestions for coverage, e-mail editor@sovo.com or call 404-876-1819, ext. 29.

Peach Tennis Tournament hits ATL for Labor Day

by JENNIFER J. SMITH

ATLANTA—This year's Peach International Tennis Tournament, set for Labor Day weekend, will once again be the largest gay tournament in North America and the second largest worldwide, according to Atlanta Team Tennis Association President Robert Hensley.

The 14th annual Peach Tournament will draw 323 players from the U.S., Australia, the Netherlands, Canada and Great Britain. Spectators are invited to attend four days of championship tennis free of charge.

Tournament registration is now closed, but for those already registered the tournament offers the opportunity for all skill levels to play singles, doubles and mixed doubles. A, B, C, and D levels are offered, as well as a 35 and over division for men in singles and doubles.

"It's a great event to participate in, but it's also a great event for tennis lovers to just come and see. We'd love everyone to attend," said Hensley. "If they're not already familiar with ATTA, it's a great introduction to the organization as well."

An international gay and lesbian tennis tournament, the Peach is hosted by the Atlanta Team Tennis Association and sanctioned by the Gay & Lesbian Tennis Alliance. Proceeds will benefit ATTA, AIDS Survival Project and the Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative. Last year, ATTA presented a check for $2,000 to ASP, and members of the Peach Tournament Committee expect to be able to at least match that donation this year.

Play will begin Friday morning, Sept. 1, at the DeKalb and South Fulton Tennis Centers and extend to the finals Sept. 3 at the DeKalb site.

INFO

Peach International Tennis Tournament

Atlanta Team Tennis Association

www.atta.org/thepeach

- Tournament: Aug. 31-Sept. 3 DeKalb and South Fulton Tennis Centers
- Draw Party: Aug. 30, 6-10:30 p.m. My Sister's Room, Decatur
- Banquet: Sept. 2 Atlanta Renaissance Hotel

Last year's Peach Tennis Tournament drew players from around the world and donated $2,000 to AIDS Survival Project.

Two social events for players are scheduled: a Thursday night "Draw Party" designed to distribute the schedule matches and give the players an opportunity to meet before competing, and a Sunday night banquet recognizing players, sponsors and organizers before finals.

Worldwide, the Peach is second only to a similar GLTA event in Amsterdam currently drawing approximately 375 players.

OBITUARY

Gerardo Roger Garza, 47

Gerardo Roger Garza, 47, died Aug. 24 after a lengthy battle with AIDS, according to Sara Riney, communications manager for AID Atlanta.

A native of Monterrey, Mexico, Garza graduated from the University of Nuevo Leon in 1978, where he was an undergraduate psychology instructor. After relocating to Chicago in 1983, Garza continued his education receiving a masters of education in research methodology from Loyola University.

Garza moved to Atlanta in 1989, where he taught Spanish at North Georgia College in Dahlonega, as well as the Brandon Hall school in Atlanta.

Diagnosed with AIDS in 1992, Garza was forced to retire from teaching and was dealt another blow when his partner died of AIDS the same year. For the next 30 months, while fighting AIDS with new medications, Garza lived at Haven House, an AIDS hospice, and the Edgewood residential facility for low-income people living with AIDS.

After his health stabilized, Garza began volunteering and became involved in AIDS advocacy.

"Roger stood for so many wonderful ideals that are the focus of our daily work in this struggle," said Tony Braswell, executive director of AID Atlanta. "He was a tireless advocate for clients and will be sincerely missed."

Garza is survived by a son, Fabian Roger Garza Trevino of London, UK, as well as two brothers living in Mexico and another brother and two sisters living in Chicago.

A memorial service was planned for Aug. 30 at AID Atlanta.

—Andrew Keegan

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Ricky Reidling Jenny Homer

Ricky Reidling & Jenny Homer
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Atlanta, Georgia 30309
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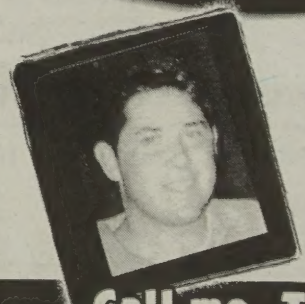

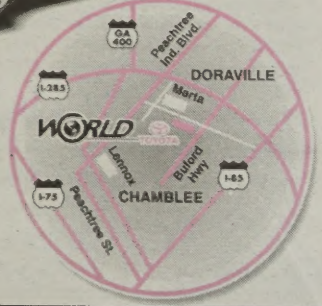

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atlanta/across ga. calendar

To add a listing, e-mail calendar@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 36, or fax to 404-876-2709.

athens

saturday, sept. 1

GLBT Teen Group. 2 pm. Presbyterian Student Center. 706-546-4611 or stock@negia.net.

monday, sept. 3

Lambda Alliance. 7 pm. UGA's GLBT student organization. Room 142 of Tate Student Center. No meetings during breaks or finals weeks. jcraig@arches.uga.edu

atlanta

friday, aug. 31

Atlanta Freedom Marching Band. 7 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church., 1379 Tullie Way. 404-622-0666

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 7:30 pm.. Ladies Night Swim. Water Polo/Swim Practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

Hotlanta Volleyball Association. Evenings. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

Gay Hockey Atlanta. Evening practices. Play or watch. Duluth IceForum. 678-924-0960. www.gayhockeyatlanta.com.

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30 pm-12 am. Community Social (ages 13-24), 8:00 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

saturday, sept. 1

Atlanta Girth & Mirth. 9 pm. Social activities for large men and their admirers. The Eagle, 306 Ponce de Leon. 770-663-7041

Atlanta Prime-Timers. 2 pm. A social group for older gay and bisexual men. Ponce de Leon Library. 770-441-5573

Atlanta Team Tennis Association Open Play. 2-6 pm. Social tennis for players at all levels. Piedmont Park. 770-621-2699

Free Morning at the High. 10 am-noon. Fulton County residents get two free tickets to the High Museum of Art. 404-733-4400

Front Runners. Meet at 8 am in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

Georgia Field Hockey Association Women's League. 9 am-noon. All skill levels welcome. Nori, 770-985-4903

West Ga. Blue Knights. 7:30 pm. Social club for men into police & military. 770-214-9348 or Henrydog43@aol.com

sunday, sept. 2

20-Something. 6:30 pm. For persons 21-30. Innovox Lounge, 699 Ponce de Leon. 404-523-7500

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 11 am. Water Polo/Swim Practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

Black Lesbian Group. 4 pm. Coming out support group. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard, Decatur. 404-370-0920

Southeast Gay Rodeo Association. Monthly meeting. 770-622-9510

tuesday, sept. 4

Atlanta Outworlders. Interest group for gay science fiction fans meets at Miss Q's on Amersterdam Ave. for "Buffy" and "Dark Angel." 770-451-8947. www.outworlders.org

Atlanta PlayLab. 6-8 pm. Free workshop for playwrights. Peachtree Library, 1315 Peachtree. 404-872-8940

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 8:30 pm. Swim Practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

Front Runners Run/Walk. 6:30 pm. Meet at the CVS shopping center at the northwest corner of Commerce Drive and Ponce De Leon Ave, Decatur. 770-621-5007

Hotlanta Volleyball Association. 7-10 pm. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30-10 pm. Gender-Bender, 8-10 pm. Youth Pride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

wednesday, sept. 5

Front Runners 6:30 pm. Meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

Volunteer Meeting. 4-7 pm. Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund. 1447 Peachtree St, Ste 1004. 404-897-1880

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30-10 pm. Teen Support Group (ages 13-18), 6-7:30 pm. Youth Council, 7:30-8:30 pm. Young Adult Discussion Group (ages 18-24), 8:30-10 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

thursday, sept. 6

Atlanta Lesbian & Gay Pride Committee Operations Meeting. 7 pm. 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-876-3700

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 8:30 pm. Swim Practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

Dungeons & Dragons. 3E D&D weekly group meeting in downtown Atlanta. Open to all levels of gay and gay-friendly RPG players. Contact ajones@mindspring.com

Georgia Log Cabin Republicans. 7 pm. The Peachtree Club, 28th Floor, First Union Building, 999 Peachtree St. 770-521-8315. www.lcrga.com

Lesbian Avengers. 7:30 pm. Weekly meeting of Atlanta chapter, open to all ages & gender identities. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave., Decatur. 404-978-1262 ext. 7744, or lesbianavengers@onebox.com

Libertarian Party of Cobb County. 7 pm. East Cobb Government Center, 4400 Lower Roswell Rd, Marietta. 770-590-8772

People of Color Community Network. 7-9 pm. In the Life Atlanta. Indigo Arts Gallery & Playhouse, 1850 DeKalb Ave. 404-378-7703

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30-10 pm. Boy Talk (ages 13-18), 8-10 pm. Womyn's Group (ages 13-24), 8:30-10 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

macon

friday, aug. 31

CCAN Potluck Luncheons. Noon. Bring a covered dish to share. Diversity House Project, 2020 Ingleside Ave. Free.

savannah

saturday, sept. 1

Saturday Socials. Call First City Network, 912-236-2489.

sunday, sept. 2

Friends & Company. 6 pm. AMF Victory Lanes. 912-354-0658

monday, sept. 3

Bowling League. 9 pm. For single lesbians and gay men. AmF Savannah Lanes, 115 Tibet Avenue. $10/week. Trey or Trish, 912-925-0320.

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Baldwin Walnut Spinet	2295	1488	5'2" Polished Polished Ebony Grands	16,995	9488
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Petrof Mahogany Console	6995	5288	Steinway Model "M" Mahogany	56,995	34,888
Bergmann Polished Ebony Baby Grand	12,995	5988	Seiler Model "180" Louvre Edition	55,995	35,488
Polished Mahogany Baby Grand	13,995	6188	Mason & Hamila "A" Rare Bubinga Wood	54,995	48,888
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anniversaries

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"Don and Tony, who have retired and moved to Sarasota, Fla., will be celebrating their 40th anniversary on Labor Day, Sept. 3, 2001."

birthdays

Front Runners Atlanta wishes a very happy birthday to members Brad Lane, Carolyn Bibb and Miss Todd on Aug. 30.

"The directors of Georgia Equality wish a happy birthday to board member Charles Gossett on Aug. 31."

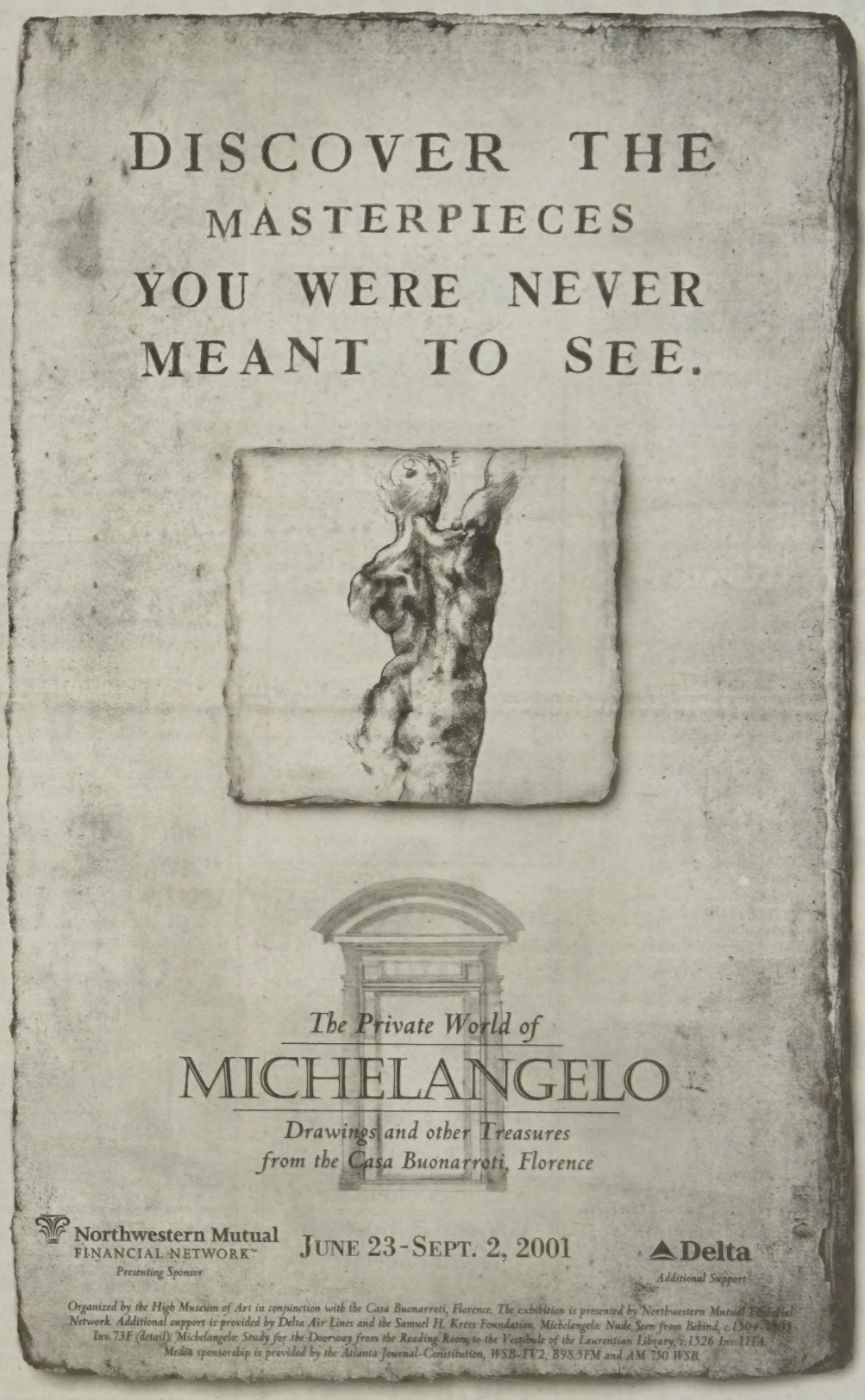
"The volunteers, staff and board of The Center send happy birthday wishes on Aug. 31 to Our Nurse Bill, Mr.Bill King. Thanks for nine years of service. We love you, Bill."

Southern Voice wishes a very happy birthday to former editorial intern Sarah Fergusson and former Associate Publisher-Marketing Dixon Taylor, both on Sept. 4.

Happy birthday to Black & White Men Together Atlanta members Giovanni B. on Sept. 1 and Arlen D. on Sept. 4.

Congratulations to Penny Weaver, former *Southern Voice* Atlanta news editor, who has been promoted to editor of *Houston Voice*, a sister publication in Houston, Texas. Atlanta's loss is Houston's gain!

Southern Voice *will gladly publish birthday wishes, anniversaries and other milestones in readers' lives. Simply e-mail your special occasions to* Southern Voice *at occasions@sovo.com. Call: 404-876-1819. Fax: 404-876-2709. Write:* Southern Voice/*Occasions, 1095 Zonolite Rd., Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30306. NOTE: You must include a phone number. All occasions are verified by telephone.*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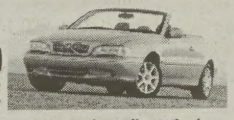

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medical report

Gay men who cruise 'Net have higher rates of risky sex

LONDON—Gay men who use the Internet to look for sex partners have higher rates of several high-risk sexual behaviors than their counterparts, according to a report published in the July 27 issue of *AIDS*. The new finding "merits further investigation, as does the possibility of using the Internet for HIV and STD prevention," Dr. Jonathan Elford, the study's director, told Reuters. Elford and colleagues from the Royal Free & University College Medical School studied the association between seeking sex on the Internet and sexual risk behaviors of 743 gay men recruited from London gyms. Of those, 121 were HIV-positive, 465 were HIV-negative, and 157 had never been tested. The study found that more than one third of men with access to the Internet had used it to find a sexual partner, regardless of HIV status. These men were significantly more likely than other men with Internet access to have had a sexually transmitted disease or gonorrhea in the past year.

LA health officials look to combat syphilis in gay men

Michael Weinstein, president of the Los Angeles-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation, asked county supervisors to help combat a syphilis outbreak among gay and bisexual men in the county.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—County supervisors ordered health officials last week to study ways to combat a sudden surge of syphilis among gay and bisexual men. The unanimous vote ordered the Health Department to come back with a report in two weeks. Michael Weinstein, president of the Los Angeles-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation, asked supervisors to look into the problem as well as approve a program of free condom distribution, as it did last year after declaring a syphilis outbreak that was contained a few months later. "It's not under control," Weinstein said. "The previous county efforts have been inadequate." The overall rate of syphilis in the county is low, but there has been a surge of reported cases among men who had sexual contact with other men, said Dr. James Haughton, medical director for public health for the county health department. There have been 97 cases of primary and secondary syphilis reported this year, down from 98 last year, Haughton said. Primary and secondary syphilis indicate the disease was contracted within the past few weeks, he said. More than half of the reports this year have involved gay and bisexual men.

Bisexual men engage in risky behavior, CDC study shows

ATLANTA—A study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention found that nearly one in three young men who have sex with men had unprotected anal sex with a man in the past three months, and nearly one in five had also had sex with a woman, Reuters reported. Researchers at CDC's National Center for HIV, TB, & STD Prevention surveyed 2,621 men who sleep with men between the ages of 15 and 25 in 13 communities across the U.S. Of the men, 32 percent were Hispanic and 28 percent were African American. "Respondents employed a variety of methods for assessing the serostatus of sexual partners, but many of their methods were not reliable," the researchers reported at the 2001 HIV Prevention Conference.

Common detergent can prevent STDs, HIV

QUEBEC, Canada—According to a study published in the August issue of *Antimicrobial Agents & Chemotherapy*, sodium lauryl sulfate, a detergent found in a wide range of personal care products, could prevent the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. "The consistent and careful use of latex condoms is an effective method to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV-1, but unfortunately, their use is not generalized," Dr. Michael Bergeron from Universite Laval in Quebec, Canada, told Reuters. "There is an urgent need to develop vaginal microbodies under the control of women to protect themselves from STDs including HIV." The authors of the study reported that pretreating the cells with SLS for one hour inhibited their infection with HIV. But SLS did not inactivate the virus in cells already infected with HIV.

Pill touted as AIDS cure is useless, Thai officials say

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—A pill that was distributed free by a private foundation to thousands of people as an AIDS cure appears to be useless, the Public Health Ministry has said. The Salang Bunnag Foundation, a social work group that promoted the V-1 Immunitor pill, can still distribute it, but only as a food supplement, the ministry said in a statement last week. The ministry committee studied for two months 50 AIDS/HIV patients who had taken the V-1 pill. The "study shows that the pill does not work," said Dr. Boonchai Phumeborplub, chair of the ministry committee. But a follow-up study would be conducted on the 50 patients for another two to four months to confirm the initial findings, he added. Deputy Public Health Minister Surapong Suebwonglee said the Salang Bunnag Foundation would have to withdraw its claims that the product can eradicate the AIDS virus. The pill gained widespread publicity in Thailand earlier this year when about 10,000 packets of the V-1 pills were given out.

—From staff and wire reports

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It's Eazy

James Earl Hardy's latest novel tackles tough issues facing gay African-Americans

by TERRANCE HEATH

James Earl Hardy, author of "The Day Eazy-E Died"—the latest installment in the popular "B-Boy Blues" series—knows what sets his work apart from much other literature by and about black gay men.

"There might have been a renaissance in literature by and about us," he says, "but it hasn't necessarily been for us. Almost every novel written by us from the mid-1980s to the early '90s focused on a Negro who worshiped not only his white lover but whiteness, and he was disconnected from other African-Americans, regardless of sexual orientation. The 'B-Boy Blues' series does not fit into this pathological interracial formula."

Hardy's novels, which include "B-Boy Blues," "2nd Time Around" and "If Only for One Nite," go a step further.

"[The 'B-Boy Blues' series] shows that many of us live in African-American communities, have loving relationships with our families, and are in emotionally fulfilling, culturally affirming intimate relationships with other African-American SGL [same-gender loving] men," says Hardy. "It challenges the idea that loving ourselves and each other is a revolutionary act."

Author James Earl Hardy reads at Outwrite Sept. 2.

Atlanta fans will get to meet the author when he reads at Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse Sept. 2. If locals' excitement equals that of readers in other cities, it could be a mob scene.

Response to Hardy's work has been overwhelming, as it addresses people who are often ignored or invisible in both gay and black communities. These are often people who do not necessarily embrace a gay identity, but whose intimate relationships are primarily with partners of their same gender, and who live their lives primarily in African-American communities.

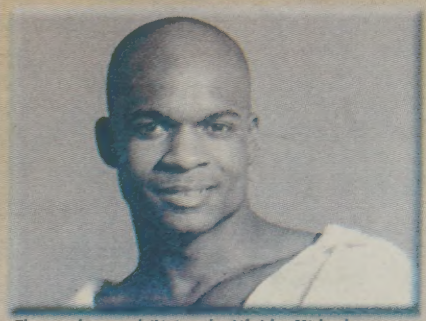
The term "same-gender loving"—abbreviated to SGL—has been embraced by some people as an alternative to "gay," and Hardy drops the term into his conversation as he talks about his characters and the people who have responded to them.

In addition to giving voice to people not previously visible in gay or black literature, the author and his work champion the self-determination of the characters and the people they represent, who are often asked by one community or the other to prioritize either their race or their sexual orientation. When asked about this "delicate balance" of race and sexuality, and how it affects his work, Hardy clarifies his position.

"The balance isn't a delicate one; it's a natural one," he says. "Race and sexual orientation aren't at odds, they simply co-exist." The matter of identity, in Hardy's view, isn't an "either-or" question, but a matter of individual determination. "The characters have found words and phrases that best describe who they are and how they feel. Some would frown on how they've

➢ Continued on Page 16

appts.



The graphic novel 'Living the Life' by Michael Christopher is the subject of an author reading and book signing at Outwrite Friday.

friday, aug. 31

Gay author **Michael Christopher** will read from his comic book series "Living the Life" at Outwrite. The story centers around three young gay African-American men living in New York City. 7:30 p.m. **Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 991 Piedmont Ave. NE, Atlanta. 404-607-0082.**

Local authors **Robin G. White** and **Deardria AdriEnne Nesbitt** will read from their latest works at Charis as part of the ongoing women's sex series for women only. White will present her collection of works titled "Resurrection." Nesbitt will read from "Drama, Where It All Begins." 8 p.m. **Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304.**

Eddie's Attic features a Trackside reunion with out lesbians **Kristen Hall** and **DeDe Vogt**, as well as Catbird Seat, Ashley & Mark, David Franklin, Kristian Bush and Gerard McHugh. First two hours are all-ages. $10. 7 p.m. **Eddie's Attic, 515 N Mcdonough St, Decatur. 404-377-4976.**

multiple engagements

The Broadway musical **"Godspell"** will get a Southern twist when Atlanta's First Metropolitan Community Church puts on its production. The musical is an energetic re-telling of the Gospel of Matthew. Free. Aug. 31-Sept. 2. **First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Rd. 404-325-4143.**

InVISION, an art exhibit that acknowledges women artists and their representations of the female form, continues. **7 Stages Theatre, 1105 Euclid Ave. 404-284-1151.**

upcoming

This year's **ArtParty**, themed "Decadence," will give attendees a chance to support the arts without feeling like they're attending a fund-raiser. The event, now in its 19th year, is presented by Accenture and serves to raise money for the Contemporary Arts Center of Atlanta. ArtParty will feature pop diva Amber, whose recent hits include "This Is Your Night" and "Sexual." Attendees are encouraged to wear costumes or other festive garments. $35-$100. Saturday, Sept. 8, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. **535 Means St., Atlanta. 404-688-1970.**

—Compiled by Erin O'Briant

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"Caring for Our Community"

on stage

THEATER REVIEWS

by JIM FARMER

Predictable 'Dream'

'Dream of a Common Language' takes a dull look at the lives of female artists in the late 1800s

It's very possible that a great play could be made about the lack of female representation during the Impressionist movement, circa France in the 1870s, but **DREAM OF A COMMON LANGUAGE**, now being staged by Synchronicity Performance Group, isn't it.

Playwright Heather McDonald got her inspiration from a painting she observed celebrating a planning meeting for an Impressionist exhibit—one without any women.

'Dream of a Common Language,' a play about the plight of female artists in late-19th century Paris, is playing at 7 Stages.

In McDonald's adaptation, Clovis (Jennifer Levison) is a former artist who has had a breakdown of sorts and has burned her hair and her paintings. Now she spends her time with her son and her housekeeper (Janna Zonder). Victor (Andrew Davis) is her husband, a somewhat boorish man and fellow artist who insists that women shouldn't be taken as seriously as their male counterparts.

When artists gather at the couple's home, only the men are allowed at the table. That doesn't sit well with any of the women, including Pola (Sandra Benton), another artist who is particularly irritated about the exclusion. Outside where they have gathered, the women decide to stand up for themselves and create their own "dinner."

It's easy to see why Synchronicity Performance Group might be attracted to this material. Their shows have tended to be refreshingly offbeat and relevant. But "Dream of a Common Language" is painfully dull, particularly the first hour. McDonald's script is top-heavy with dialogue. For all the talk, however, the play is never very deep.

Under the direction of Michelle Pearce, "Dream" is stillborn. It's not really her fault—McDonald's play is not terribly involving. The cast does what it can. Benton takes acting honors, as the one who first stands up to the absurd requests of Victor. What liveliness "Dream" has is largely due to her.

This work is a bit reminiscent of last spring's "Fefu & Her Friends," which also starred Benton and Levison. Both shows are a bit cold, unclear and somewhat self-congratulatory. For what it's worth, "Dream of a Common Language" does have a rousing ending.

Throughout the play, Clovis bemoans the fact that women are always painted nude, and that she herself has never painted a male nude. It doesn't take much to figure out where this is headed, but it at least wakes up the play for a few moments.

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA has returned to the Fox Theatre for what seems like the 532nd time. One of the cast members is openly gay performer William Patrick Dunne, who is part of the ensemble and one of the show's few dancers. "The appeal of 'Phantom' is that it is so theatrical, almost cinematic," he notes. "People come to see it over and over." After performing in "Phantom" on Broadway, Dunne has been on the national tour for two years. He often changes roles to avoid the monotony and keep it fresh.

His résumé includes such musicals as "Cats," "Brigadoon" and "The Wizard of Oz." He was also part of openly gay David Bell's wonderful "Hot Mikado" at the Alliance Theatre a few seasons back. That show was mentioned as being New York City-bound, but didn't make it. "That was such a great cast, a lot of energy and fun," says Dunne.

Next week, Theatre in the Square kicks off its season with a disappointing version of George Bernard Shaw's **"Pygmalion."**

INFO

'Dream of a Common Language'
Thru Sept. 2
7 Stages Theater
1105 Euclid Ave NE
404-284-1151

'Phantom of the Opera'
Fox Theatre
Sept. 4-9
660 Peachtree St.
404-817-8700

atlanta theater calendar

The hit musical 'Phantom of the Opera' comes to the Fox Theatre Sept. 4-9.

DINAH WAS Thru Sept 23. Incorporates popular songs from Dinah Washington's 20-year career as the Queen of the Blues. Alliance Theater, 1280 Peachtree St. 404-733-5000.

DREAM OF A COMMON LANGUAGE Thru Sept 2. Two women struggle to be respected as artists in a sexist society. 7 Stages Theatre, 1105 Euclid Ave., 404-284-1151.

THE GIANT, THE BEANSTALK AND JACK! Thru Sept 16. Jack manages to outwit a giant who's not so jolly, save his mother's farm and get the gold. Center for Puppetry Arts, 1404 Spring St. 404-873-3391.

GINNY & LOVE LETTERS Thru Sept 2. The first play is about a man waiting for a bus; the second is a love story. Historic Canton Theatre, 171 Main St., Canton. 770-704-0755.

GODSPELL Aug 31 thru Sept. 2. Metropolitan Community Church's energetic and musical retelling of the Gospel of Matthew. Free. First MCC, 1379 Tullie Rd. 404-325-4143.

LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS Thru Sept 15. A 47-year-old man faces a mid-life crisis and attempts to participate in the sexual revolution. Kudzu Playhouse, 608 Holcomb Bridge Road, Roswell. 770-594-1020.

LES PARENTS TERRIBLES (INDISCRETIONS) Thru Sept 16. A tragic farce by gay poet and playwright Jean Cocteau translated from the original French by Jeremy Sams. Out of Hand Theater, Backstage Theatre at 7 Stages,1105 Euclid Ave. 404-522-6194.

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR Sept 1-30. In this outrageous tale of silliness and mirth, the lecherous Sir John Falstaff finds himself up to his neck in mischief as he tries to prove that the wives of Windsor are not as true as they seem. The New American Shakespeare Tavern, 499 Peachtree St. 404-874-5299.

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Sept 4-9. Andrew Lloyd Webber's play directed by Harold Prince traces the tragic love story of a beautiful opera singer and a young composer shamed by his physical appearance into a shadowy existence beneath the majestic Paris Opera House. Theater of the Stars, Fox Theatre, 660 Peachtree St. 404-252-8960.

PYGMALION Thru Sept 23. The upper-crust Henry Higgins sets out to make a "fair lady" out of a Cockney flower girl. Theatre in the Square, 11 Whitlock Ave., Marietta. 770-422-8369.

—Compiled by Erin O'Briant

To add a listing, e-mail eobriant@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 20, or fax to 404-876-2709.

calendar

drag/comedy/ cabaret

BACKSTREET ATLANTA Thur & Sun 1 a.m.; Fri & Sat 11:30 p.m.: Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret. Sun 9 p.m.: The Armorettes. Backstreet Atlanta, 845 Peachtree. 404-873-1986.

BURKHART'S Sun 7:30 & 10:30 p.m.: the Gospel Girls. Mon-Thur: Karaoke. 1492-F Piedmont. 404-872-4403.

COMEDY RESPONSE UNIT Fri & Sat 10:30 p.m. Improv unit interacts with the audience to create comedy. Red Chair Theater, 662 11th St. 404-872-4242.

LE BUZZ Tues & Thur 10 p.m. Karaoke hosted by Jonathan. 585 Franklin Rd., Marietta. 770-424-1337.

METRO Mon: Peg's "Mouth of the South Live!" Tues: Latin Night. Wed: Regina Sims presents Silhouettes of Illusion. Sat: Scott Davis. 1080 Peachtree. 404-874-9869.

NICKIEMOTO'S Mon 8:30 p.m. "Drag-Amaki" with EJ and Chilli Pepper show accompanies dinner. 990 Piedmont Ave. 404-253-2010.

SAMBUCA JAZZ CAFÉ Live jazz nightly. 3102 Piedmont Rd. 404-237-5299.

TRAXX Mon 10:30 p.m. & 12:30 a.m. With hostess Sophia McIntosh. The Warehouse, 306 Luckie St. 404-681-4422.

galleries/exhibits

ART INSTITUTE OF ATLANTA Thru Sept 15. "Visions: Faculty Showcase 2001" features work by the college's faculty. 6600 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd. NE. 770-394-8300.

ATLANTA COLLEGE OF ART Thru Sept 30. Full-time and adjunct faculty exhibit work in all media. Atlanta College of Art Gallery, 1280 Peachtree St. 404-733-5000.

AU PREFECTURE GALLERY Thru Sept 9. Kevin Woodard and Yang. East meets west in a contrast of styles, mediums and cultures. 1388 McLendon Ave. 404-523-0066.

CITY GALLERY CHASTAIN Thru Sept 8. "The Hourglass Project: Baggage" features 35 limited-edition prints created by 14 international artists while in residence at the Caversham Centre for Artists and Writers in Balgowan, South Africa. 135 West Weiuca Road (inside Chastain Park). 404-257-1804.

GALLERY 100 Aug 31-Sept 14. J.J. Conn and Kathleen Ramsden. 1280 Peachtree St. 404-733-5000.

INVISION Thru Sept 2. An exhibit that acknowledges women artists and their representations of the female form. 7 Stages Theatre, 1105 Euclid Ave. 404-284-1151.

MICHELANGELO: DRAWINGS AND OTHER TREASURES Thru Sept 2. The exhibit contains many works by Italy's most famous artist, Michelangelo Buonarroti, that have never before been displayed in this country. High Museum of Art, Woodruff Arts Center, 1280 Peachtree St. 404-733-4444.

MOMUS Thru Sept 5. Chris Scarborough uses comic elements and symbolic devices to make fears and the subconscious absurd. 75 Bennett St., Ste. D-2. 404-355-4180.

SANDLER HUDSON GALLERY Thru Sept 8. "Repetition" group exhibit includes a variety of artists interpreting the theme. 831A Peachtree Rd. 404-350-8180.

—Compiled by Erin O'Briant

To add a listing, e-mail eobriant@sovo.com or fax to 404-876-2709

out on the town

SCENES FROM ATLANTA NIGHTLIFE

by ERIN O'BRIANT

Party, march for Pride

Black Gay Pride 2001 promises more parties, plus the event's first-ever Pride march

I just hope participants in Atlanta Black Gay Pride 2001 got a lot of sleep last weekend. Because, judging from this year's schedule, they're not going to get any rest for the next few days.

The list of parties and other social events happening in conjunction with Black Gay Pride is a long one, full of happenings from cookouts to a white-attire party to a diva reunion. Girls in the Night has planned many events specifically for women, and clubs such as Bulldogs, Colours and the Tower II are hosting plenty of their own events.

Organizers say they're excited about the first-ever Atlanta Black Gay Pride March, which will be held on Monday, Sept. 3, and will proceed form the State Capitol building to the Martin Luther King Center.

Because there are so many events happening at Black Gay Pride this year, the schedule that follows is a selection of event highlights.

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

This year's Atlanta Black Gay Pride promises the familiar social whirl, plus a first-ever Pride march.

friday, aug. 31

Opening ceremony and welcome
Renaissance Midtown Atlanta Hotel, 6:30 p.m.
Entertainment provided by Adodi Muse

Official welcome party
Studio Central 300 Central Ave.
10 p.m.-4 a.m.
404-798-5575

'Living the Life' book signing
Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse
991 Piedmont Ave. NE, 7:30 p.m.
Michael Christopher signs his books "Living the Life: Prequel" and "Living the Life: Graphic Novel"

Take it to the house
Dance and celebration for youth ages 13 to 24
Youth Pride Center, 302 E Howard Ave.
8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Women's sex series
Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave., 8 p.m.
Robin G. White & Deardria Adri Enne Nesbitt read from their latest works.
Women only.

Girls in the Day mixer
Cocktail reception & welcome party
Holiday Inn Atlanta, 101 International Blvd., 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Girls in the Night: Pleasure at Barcode
339 Marietta St.
9 p.m. to 4:35 a.m.
404-681-4422 or 888-374-5504

saturday, sept. 1

Diva reunion
The Metro, 1080 Peachtree St.,
2 p.m.-7 p.m.

Stripper showdown
DA Boxx 521 Tift St., 11:30 p.m.
Hosted by Maxine Blue

Third Annual Girl Ball: Bliss
Celebration Hall, 181 Ralph David Abernathy, 10 p.m.-4 a.m.
Dancing, bikini contest, and early-morning breakfast
404-743-9262

sunday, sept. 2

Sunday worship service
Unity Fellowship Church, 2001 Martin Luther King Drive, noon

Official Black Pride cookout
Renaissance Park, 561 Piedmont Park,
2 p.m.-7 p.m.

Book signing and discussion
Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse
991 Piedmont Ave. NE, 7:30 p.m.
James Earl Hardy, author of "The Day Eazy-E Died," reads and signs books

Girls in the Night Glam-Slam poetry competition
Holiday Inn Downtown, 101 International Blvd., 3 p.m.-6:47 p.m.
$7 cover; $20 entry fee
Special guest judge C.C. Carter
404-524-5555

Girls in the Night She Tea: Women in White
The Park Tavern, 500 10th St.
10 p.m.-4 a.m.
Reduced cover for white attire

Sixth annual wet T-shirt contest
Labor Day extravaganza
Club Taste, 495 Peachtree St.
Midnight
$10 cover or $5 with Black Pride pass

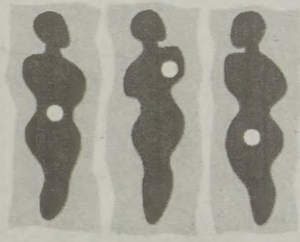
monday, sept. 3

Black Pride March
From Capitol building to Martin Luther King Center
12:30 p.m. assembly, 1 p.m. step off

In the Life Atlanta

PO Box 7206
Atlanta, GA 30357
404-872-6410
info@inthelifeatl.com
www.inthelifeatl.com

ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE



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11:00 Decide lunch location
12:00 Arrive at Andaluz
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2:00 Realize how cool Andaluz is
3:00 Start calling friends to join me at Andaluz after work
4:00 Start counting minutes
5:00 Cocktails at Andaluz
5:30 Tapas at Andaluz
6:00 More cocktails
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Hardy 'gives voice' to gay black men

➢ Continued from Page 13

chosen to name themselves, but there's no law that says they have to embrace white-constructed labels, like 'gay' or 'queer,' that do not speak to them.

"The Day Eazy-E Died" deals with the effects of news reports that rapper Eazy-E is suffering from AIDS on the lives and relationship of the novel's main characters. The recently published novel comes at a time when reports from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention indicate a rise in HIV/AIDS cases among gay men of color, especially black men.

"Those figures—if they are to be believed — did not happen overnight," Hardy says. "The CDC and other organizations knew over a decade ago that the face of AIDS was changing, and that if efforts and resources weren't directed at those under-served populations we could see the plague-like stats they've reported. You can't put a colored face on prevention efforts that have worked for white gay men and expect success. Many campaigns assumed most of us were—or should be—sleeping with white men, which meant few to zero prevention messages were targeting the majority of us."

The author hopes his recent work will help raise awareness of HIV and AIDS in African-American communities and start a conversation on how to deal with the disease in those communities.

"I hope 'The Day Eazy-E Died' makes it clear that, no matter what some of these totally-out-of-touch queer pontificators have been saying, AIDS is not over," says Hardy, "and that it helps open up the dialogue African-Americans, especially those in the hip-hop nation, should have been having long ago."

Readers of the "B-Boy Blues" series will note that some time has passed since the period in which "The Day Eazy-E Died" is set, and may wonder if there is more of the story to tell.

"All the action still takes place in the mid-'90s," Hardy says, "and I, like many others, am curious as to what has happened to them [since then]. Today, Mitchell would be 35, Raheim 29 and Junior 12. Is Mitchell still teaching? Did Raheim make it big time as an actor? How is Junior adjusting to the teen years?

"And, of course, the one everyone will want answered: Are Mitchell and Raheim still together?" he adds. "If [the characters] want to tell that story, I'll gladly go along for the ride."

INFO

'The Day Eazy-E Died'
by James Earl Hardy
Alyson Press, $21.95

James Earl Hardy
Sunday, Sept. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse
991 Piedmont Ave.
404-607-0082

atlanta eats out

by JONATHAN LERNER

Dinner with a view

A new downtown restaurant offers a breathtaking setting

First, to dispel confusion: **PRIME MERIDIAN** has no relation to Prime, the gorgeously airy steak house at Lenox Mall.

Except that it's gorgeously airy, too.

Prime Meridian—named for that imaginary line of zero degrees longitude at Greenwich, England—is the newly carved-out restaurant in the Omni Hotel at CNN Center in downtown.

To make the previously forbidding CNN Center a bit more street-friendly, new entries and window walls have been cut into the building. The hotel also re-worked its public spaces. Now its lobby, cocktail lounge and restaurant—which merge seamlessly—offer smashing views of Centennial Olympic Park and the skyline.

The typical hotel restaurant-with-a-view is way up on the top floor, perhaps to further the pretense that you're above it all. But here, at third-floor level, you still feel part of the city.

The interior is right up to the challenge: solidly comfortable, handsomely modern but not too minimal. You're up in the air, but not left floating queasily. My pal and I felt this would be a romantic setting for a special date.

The ambitious menu promises unusual combinations of luxury ingredients from all over the globe at expense-account prices. Starters at dinner are mostly $8-$12, entrées in the $20-$30 range. Some of what we ate was quite good. But overall the food lacked finesse.

A salad of slivered white asparagus and beets was dressed with fresh dill, olive oil and good balsamic vinegar. It was supposed to be set over mache and I think the green was actually the more bitter cress. Despite the startlingly huge, triangular white plate it arrived on, the dish was lackluster.

Much better was a lobster salad plate. It included pale leaves of Belgian endive, slices of avocado and smoked green grapes. (I'd never heard of them either; they were kind of strange and bacon-flavored.)

A yummy, heavy-with-mayonnaise glob of lobster salad was supposed to be flavored with vanilla. (This also sounded scary, but we couldn't discern any vanilla taste.) A large intact claw of tender lobster meat graced the whole concoction.

The filet mignon was top-quality. It came with sautéed disks of parsnip, an unusual touch that added a nice sweetness. A red wine reduction was tasty but skimpy; we wanted much more of it. This plate could have used a wisp of something green. Instead, it came with an unadvertised side of mashed potatoes.

Sautéed sea bass was a marvelous piece of fish—big, thick, moist and flaky, with a gossamer golden crust. It sat on a bed of beet greens stirred with an intense romesco sauce of tomato, red pepper, garlic and sherry. Accompanying were slices of sweet Italian sausage, which made for a deliciously earthy surf-and-turf, and three desiccated Little Neck clams I could have done without.

food file

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404-818-4450

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Scene: 🍽🍽

♥ = Stay home and eat cereal
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🍽🍽🍽 = Fine for all but the finnicky
🍽🍽🍽🍽 = Worth more than a 20-minute drive
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With drinks and tip, we dropped $130 on this adequate but imperfect two-course meal. If that would bust your budget, forgo dinner and just head to the Omni for cocktails in a breathtakingly beautiful setting.

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atlanta classifieds

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SisterLove, Inc. seeks volunteers to strengthen our fight against HIV/AIDS. Provide office support, do street outreach, join our Speakers Bureau, develop fund-raising strategies, work on special events or share your unique skills. SisterLove provides prevention education, outreach and transitional housing for women affected By HIV/AIDS. Call 404-753-7733

The Atlanta Harm Reduction Center is a grassroots street outreach program whose focus is to stop the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by providing information, condoms, referrals, and more to the people who are underserved in our communities. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please donate some of your time and energy. For more info write to: A.H.R.C. 1020 DeKalb Ave NE suite 17, Atlanta, Ga 30307, or call 404-526-9222. AHRAATLANTA@JUNO.COM

YOGA for AIDS & HIV

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WORKSHOP FOR GAY MEN. Learn to create the relationship you want during a 6 week educational series focusing on intimacy, communication, self esteem, expectations, boundaries and safer sex. Groups are continually forming, call to register. 404-870-7763.

Home But Not Alone- Enjoy reduced rent and comfortable housing. Fast placements, homes now available! No waiting list. Share with a person living with HIV. Call Rita at 770-395-2625. or call Susan at 770-395-2546.

Free Testing

Our Common Welfare will provide Free HIV testing & counseling. Testing using oral fluids & urine tests, daily from 10am-7pm earlier by appt. Offices are located at 4329 Memorial Dr, Suite H Decatur, (next to DeKalb Co jail) call for details. 404-296-3090.

Hillside Chapel & Truth Center

Joins Our Common Welfare to provide Free HIV antibody testing & counseling. Testing using oral fluids & urine tests, Alternating Tuesdays from 11 am to 7 pm at 2416 Cascade Rd. SW. Atlanta GA 30311. For more information call 404-296-3090 or 404-758-2515.

FREE TESTING

Think positive, stay negative... HIV Testing & Counseling Services is being offered at the N A E S M. No Needles! Quick! Easy! Accurate! & Confidential! Testing is available from 9:30am until 5:30pm, Wednesday's 9:30am until 7:00pm closed on weekends. No appt. necessary. We're located at 2001 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Ste 602-B for more details, call 404-753-2900.

Free Testing

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NATIONAL AIDS EDUCATION & SERVICES for MINORITIES will be facilitating a support group for men who are HIV positive and have AIDS. Every Wednesday 6pm til 7:30pm, 2001 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr, suite 602 404-753-2900 ext 17.

Announcements

WEST GEORGIA GAY & LESBIAN

RESOURCE CENTER- A cyberspace resource center serving the W.Ga. gay & lesbian community. Includes a bulletin board, chat room, personals, and local, regional and national resource links. http://www.truthtree.com/westga

GAY ICE HOCKEY

IGLIHA ice hockey team/club forming for gay, lesbian and gay friendly players/supporters. All skill levels welcome. For information visit www.gay-hockeyatlanta.com or call 678-924-0960.

Naked, swim/sun/fun private for young males free. 770-458-5661.

GEORGIA WOMEN FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE Registration: My Sisters Room August 25th 4pm-6pm. TBD Sept.8th 4pm-6pm. Cost: $45.00 per person. Game: Sept.30-Dec 2nd. Time: Sunday mornings & early afternoons. Location: Murphy Candler Park-Football field (Ashford Dunwoody exit off I-285) Experience: Not necessary. Team: Not necessary. We will find you a team. Fun: Required! Practice: Every Sunday from 10am-12pm at Piedmont Park-starting Aug.26th until Sept. 30th (grassy area near corner of Monroe & 10th-also near Park Tavern) Contacts: Dene Cornett 404-441-1143 or Mashonda Gilmore 770-220-5305.

OUTRIGHT LIBERTARIANS

www.OutrightUSA.org National GLBT Libertarian group expanding membership/new chapters across America! Why support a political party that oppresses YOU? Help spread the message of less government,low/no income tax,individual freedom/rights w/personal responsibility! Read, Join, Activate! Related Info: LP.org, Self-gov.org, GLIL.org, Alf.org, Indegayforum.org Info@OutrightUSA.org 678-478-4896 Lv. Message.

MIDTOWN SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

CONSECRATION STATEMENT- Midtown Spiritual Community is consecrated to being a safe, healing place in which you will find love & acceptance just as you are. A creative, alive place, in which you will be challenged to become all you can be, by realizing all that you are, as you travel your spiritual path. Together, we are creating heaven on earth. 11am Sunday Celebration Service at Academy of Medicine, 875 W. Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta. 404-874-1937

MEDITATION

Free classes to be taught offering meditation in the style of P. Yoganada and Roy Eugene Davis by a student of 30 years training. In Buckhead. Please call Ken Payne 404-237-6507. NO CHARGE EVER.

Auditions

Male model wanted by Artist for part time position. Now interviewing. No experience necessary. Calls Tuesdays or Wednesday anytime. Other days leave message. 404-497-9262.

Auto

1999 Mercedes SLK 230

Silver, Black & red Leather. Factory Warranty, 42,700 miles. All books & records. EXCELLENT Condition $31,000 Call 770-351-6085.

Business Opportunity

BIO CHOICE

DISTRIBUTORS WANTED FEEL GREAT IN 30-DAYS FLAT! BIO-CHOICE a new health product listed in the physicians desk reference, balances and supports the immune system, helps maintain cardiovascular function and healthy levels of cholesterol. Provides protection for more than 26 infectious bacteria and 80 autoimmune diseases. FREE AUDIO 1-888-298-0112.

Cleaning

Providing personal and professional cleaning services since 1994. Call B&C Unlimited 770-993-9555. References available upon request.

DIRTY HOUSES WANTED!!

Housecleaning. Licensed and insured. Weekly, bimonthly, move-ins, move-outs. Call Marc at Apollo Cleaning Services. 404-317-7267.

COMMERCIAL CLEANING SERVICES

Tired of cleaning your own office? Dependable cleaning service. Weekly, monthly. Apollo Cleaning Services. 404-317-7267.

CLEANING INSIDE & OUT

Full service residential house cleaning and yard maintenance. Best rates in town. Call for appointment today! 404-235-5920

Employment • Full

RECEPTIONIST

Midtown area. Full-time position to answer multiple phone lines in a professional atmosphere. Fax resumes to 770-956-2919.

LANDSCAPING

Great pay, Great neighborhoods. Landscaper seeks FT/PT. for immediate employment call 404-315-9361

WORK AT HOME!

$400-$500 daily guaranteed. For more information call 1-877-208-9127 ext. 1290. Only the serious need apply.

Men's Mtn Retreat

In NE Tennessee seeks housekeeping, maintenance, & cook staff. Please respond to P.O Box 383 Duffield VA. 24244 or 1-800-568-2191.

LAWN CARE

Landscaping/Lawn Care: Needed dependable, experienced person for lawn care. Great pay. Must have own transportation. Full/Part-time Eddie 404-728-9320.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

Downtown limousine service needs Limousine/Sedan Drivers, Reservationist/Dispatch, Office/Clerical, Sales & Marketing. Russell 404-733-6709.

Rapidly Growing Courier Co.

Great income driving for Gay-owned Courier Company. Full/Part time, flexible hours. Must own reliable transportation. Call Dan: 404-627-8011.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

SERVICEMEMBERS LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK (SLDN) the nations only legal aid and advocacy group assisting men and women harmed by 'Don't ask Don't tell' seeks a Deputy Director to serve as Chief Operating Officer. Working in partnership with the organization's Executive Director, the Deputy Director will be responsible for the effective management of SLDN. The Deputy Director will have day to day line authority for managing SLDN's financial, human resource and administrative operations. The ideal candidate will have an MBA or comparable advanced degree in management, public policy or a related field as well as 5-10 years management experience. Candidates should also have a demonstrated commitment to civil liberties, strong interpersonal relations skills, and strategic problem solving experience. Salary range $65.000 to $80,000 depending on experience. Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume and salary history to: Deputy Director SLDN, PO Box 65301, Washington,DC 20035, or email hr@sldn.org. SLDN values a multi-cultural work force and is committed to diversity, including based on race, ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, religion and physical ability. For more information, visit our Web site at www.sldn.org.

Hair Stylist

and Cosmetologists. If you have a strong desire to be the best at your work, we would like to talk to you about joining our team. No Clientele needed. Great pay, Great benefits. Midtown Atlanta. Apply online at spencerdarrow.com 404-881-1031.

CONSTRUCTION ASST.

Established growing company seeks hard working laborer w/own truck/van for carpenter's helper. Construction experience preferred. Call 770-640-0223.

St.Croix-Resort

The Cormorant, a beautiful resort catering to the glbt community is currently seeking experienced chefs, bartenders, servers, & Front Office assistants. Salary for Chef is based upon experience. If you are considering locating to one of the most beautiful islands in the Caribbean, please e-mail your resume to: cormorant@united-states.vi or fax to 340-778-9218.

Employment • Part

Join the Black Tie Team

Now hiring for P/T servers & bartenders. Upscale clientele, flexible schedules & diverse work locations. A great second job for students, actors, empty nesters, models or flight attendants. Pursue your interests and work when you want to. Reliable transportation required. More information at 770-234-0707, e-mail blacktie@mindspring.com

CAREGiver

If you've ever cared for a loved one, this job is perfect for you. Join the area's #1 non-medical service for the elderly. Flexible P/T hours. Car is required. HOME INSTEAD SENIOR CARE-call 770-392-1070

P/T RECRUITING COORDINATOR

Part-time recruiting coordinator: Home Instead Senior Care seeks a person who enjoys working with people. Qualifications include strong presentation, telephone and follow-up skill. Must be able to handle multi-tasks. Experience in recruiting and retaining part-time employees preferred. Please fax resume to 770-392-8955, email to gymcats@prodigy.net or mail to: Home Instead Senior Care, 1530 Dunwoody Village Pkwy, Suite 208 Atlanta, GA 30338.

Framing

CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING

Free consultation and quotes. Wide selection of frames, mats and materials for your special *Artwork * Prints * Photographs * Posters * & * Signs *. Advantage Graphics & Signs, 2064 Briarcliff Rd. Suite 103, Atlanta, GA 30329 Ask for Alexandra 404-325-5302 Fax: 404-325-9917.

Group Psychotherapy

GAY/LESBIAN THERAPY GROUP. Emory University Outpatient Psychotherapy Training Program. Starts mid-September. Apply early limited openings. Wednesdays 5:00 pm $30/session.404-727-0399 for information.

Handyman

He's So Handy!

Handyman Services and Renovation. Specializing in Tile, Painting, Carpentry, Plumbing & Electrical. Serving our community for over 5 years! Call Shawn McGuire 404-408-7748.

Health

HEALTH INS.

$15 copay and any doctor, major medical, dental, RX, and chiropractic. Quality and Affordable. Visit www.naseweb.com/seanrucker.htm or call Sean 770-788-2391.

Penis-Enlargement.net

F.D.A. approved vacuum pump/surgical enlargement. Gain 1"-3". Permanent, safe. Resolve impotence. FREE Brochure: Dr. Joel Kaplan, 619-295-HUNG. Latest enlargement information 900-976-PUMP ($2.95/min).

Home Improvement

PAINTING

Quality interior painting. Excellent references available. Call Darryl at 404-634-8802 for free estimate.

OAKVIEW LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION designs and installs custom fences and decks, unique stone and brickwork, including retaining walls and patios, and one-of-a kind landscapes. Excellent references available. Phone 404-966-8292 for an estimate. www.oakview-fencing.com

Light general contracting service. Residential/Commercial interior only. Paint, paper, small electrical, plumbing, remodeling. Phone 678-290-4740. Free estimates 25 yrs experience.

Instruction

VOICE TRAINING

An artist development special introductory offer. Call for details Tammy Allen for details. 678-344-6032.

Internet

www.GayGifts4u.com

Massage Therapy

MIAMI MASSAGE

Therapeutic massage by Daniel: Formerly of Miami, now serving Atlanta in deep tissue & Swedish massage. Licensed 7 years exp. 404-364-5340/in and out

GARDEN VIEW MASSAGE

CNMT offers professional massage services for men and women integrating shiatsu, swedish, polarity & neuromuscular therapy. www.gardenviewmassage.com Michael 404-377-9854.

Quality Plus

Full body massage - Parasympathetic, Deep Tissue, Sports, Zen Touch, Swedish, & much more, with a 1000 hours fit HHP/CMT. Discreet, Novices Welcome. Hotels, In/Out, Credit cards. Call Vince 404-870-0791.

ROYAL TREATMENT

Complete bodywork by masculine black male. Dedicated, down to earth, and dependable. Accepting Visa/MC CMT Chris 404-817-0575.

Marietta Massage

Chiropractic student offers centering & empowering deep tissue massage. 5 years experience. Incalls or hotel outcalls welcome. Glenn 770-420-5629.

EXPERIENCE

A relaxing, full-body massage, professionally trained experienced therapist. Combining Swedish, shiatsu, & reflexology for a great massage. Located in Decatur. In/out great rates. Mike 770-309-4490

MIDTOWN MASSEUR

Get a long deep hard therapeutic massage. William 404-874-0245.

Atlanta's Finest

www.ATLMASSAGE.COM... Full Body Therapy- In/out service. Body shaves, trims, scrubs. CMT Jason 404-896-HAND (4*2*6*3). Discreet Buckhead location. Airline personnel specials.

Metro Atl. Massage

Full body massage by a mature masculine man with strong and gentle hands to make you feel good from head to toe. By Dwight - Certified Massage Therapist. 404-315-1551. Del4watr@aol.com.

www.MassageProAtl.com

Your Body Is My Business! Professional services for the male body. Full body massage/waxing. Body Shaving & Trimming. Ken Pullara, CMT. 404-371-4424. www.MassageProAtl.com

Metaphysics

PSYCHIC

Clairvoyant lesbian medium, past life channeling, soul retrievals. Health and environmental detoxification intuitive/coach. Reiki master. Youngblood 404-893-9140.

Real Estate

PRIDE REALTY

Metro Atlanta Rentals
We Offer All Your Rental Needs. "Because There's No Place Like Home."
Pride Realty, Inc. 404-352-5570
www.PrideRealty.com

Real Estate • Commercial

OFFICES from $495/mo. Furnished, telephone service. Call Dee 404-250-3242.

Real Estate For Rent

TOCO HILLS/EMORY

2BR/2BA, 2 story townhouse, over 1400 sq.ft.! Private community, 50% off first month's rent. $1395.00/mo. Many extras included! 404-467-5738.

East Point/Jefferson Park. Large 2BR/1BA unit in a duplex on beautiful wooded lot. Full basement with W/D hookup. Separate LR, kitchen/dining room combo. Hardwood floors. $850/mo. 404-768-2602 Owner/agent.

Two bedroom townhouse I-85 Shallowford/Georgetown community. Private courtyard. Green and quiet. Laundry next door. Olympic pool. $860.00 mo. 706-482-2225.

RENT TO OWN

HAPEVILLE, rent to own 2BR/1-1/2 bath townhouse. Rent $675.00 -Mtg PITI $675.00 (including Assoc. Fees)*10 min to anywhere in Atlanta or Airport. First time buyer or investor. Call G. Taylor 678-361-4682

Beautiful spacious homes to share. Downtown/Midtown Grant Park area. Serious inquiries only. Please call Peg 404-622-6923.

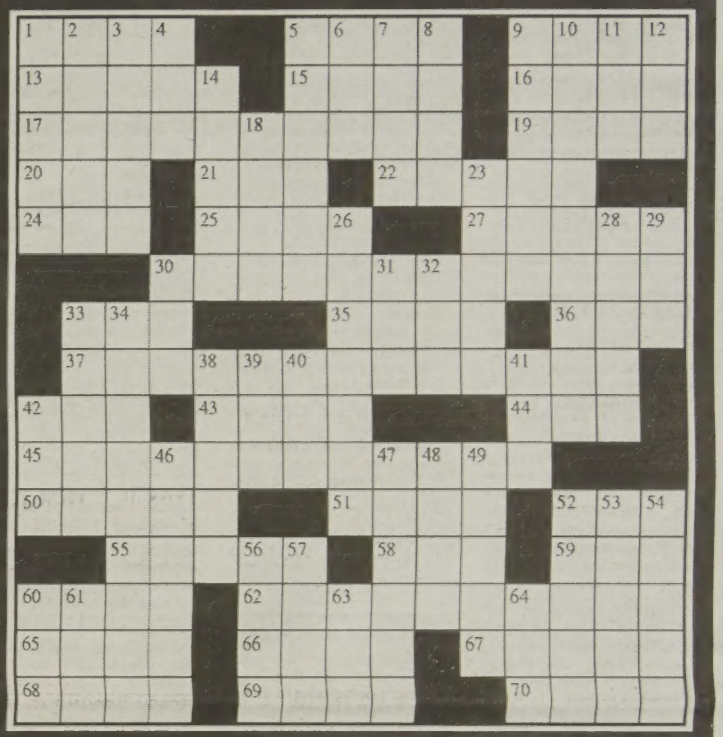
New Townhouse 3 levels, one bedroom, garage, pool, small yard, W/D, hardwoods, stainless steel appliances. $1250/mo. 404-271-7378.

EAST ATLANTA

Charming 1BR/1BA cottage walking distance to East Atlanta Village. New systems/security. Non-smokers only. Cats ok $700 one month deposit and references required. Water and security included. Electric and phone not included. Share yard with main house. Call 404-624-9505/678-637-7782 to see.

➢ Continued on Page 20

Q Puzzle



'Converting the Heteros'

Across

1 Place for a stud
5 Upholstery uglifiers
9 They're over cpls.
13 Exams on sexual technique?
15 1952 Olympics site where Dick Button won gold
16 Decorated man, maybe
17 Friend of Dorothy on the rifle range?
19 Keep ___ (persevere)
20 Pigged out
21 Mulder or Scully: Abbr.
22 Furry fellows
24 With 55-Across, openly gay composer of "Miss Julie"
25 Steel-band instrument
27 "The Phantom Menace" alien Jar-Jar ___
30 Own an Elton John mask?
33 "Two Little Girls" singer DiFranco
35 Rob ___ (Scotch manhattans)
36 Kit ___ (candy bar)
37 Solve this crossword puzzle?
42 Blow in a comic book
43 Went down
44 Takes too much, for short
45 Resembling a lesbian supermodel?
50 "You'll Never Walk ___" (song from "Carousel")
51 Time between birthdays
52 Where to find San Francisco and Key West
55 See 24-Across
58 Inc., in England
59 Gardner of "Show Boat"
60 She sang "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" with Elton
62 Performs in the style of Liberace?
65 Youngest brother on "Party of Five"
66 Montreal baseballer
67 Bert's long-time companion
68 Word processor command
69 Neck and neck
70 Jodie Foster's alma mater

Down

1 Airport which services Provincetown
2 Emulate William Jennings Bryan
3 Howled at the moon
4 Two-time U.S. Open winner Ernie
5 Discover by digging with the nose
6 Suffix with sex
7 Naval Academy freshman
8 In need of Ben-Gay
9 Streisand's "Funny Girl" costar
10 Prepares to skinny-dip
11 More than bi-
12 Boozer
14 Window covering
18 Fairy-tale monster
23 Immeasurably vast hole
26 Cosmetics queen?
28 Discontinued Chrysler models
29 Get hard
30 Do-it-yourselfer's purchase
31 "Don't ___ step further!"
32 "Atlas Shrugged" author Rand
33 Score ___ (get points)
34 Greenwich Village resident, e.g.
38 "AIDS: Profile of an Epidemic" narrator Ed
39 Wander aimlessly
40 "The Brady Bunch" actress ___ B. Davis
41 Exclamation after explosive sex
42 Tiger Woods' org.
46 Apply holy oil to
47 Have faith in
48 Michael Jackson played with his in "Ben"
49 Do-___ situation (crucial emergency)
52 ___ cum laude
53 To no ___ (useless)
54 Prostitute, to a john
56 Fencer's thruster
57 1,065, to Caesar
60 Some boxing wins, briefly
61 "Sands of ___ Jima" (classic WWII film)
63 Very hairy swinger
64 Take a whack at

Answers on Page 20

atlanta classifieds

➢ Continued from Page 19

EAST POINT

Beautiful craftsman in East point. 10 miles from downtown Atlanta, 10 minutes from airport. Perfect for anyone in airlines field. 2BR/2.5BA stunning renovation. Front porch and rear deck. Large kitchen/dining room. Lots of closet space and attic storage, high ceilings, beautiful trim and hardwood floors. All new appliances. Non-smokers only. $1,300 mo + 1 month deposit. Utilities not included. 404-624-9505/678-637-7782. References required.

CHARMING HISTORIC RENTALS

Several units in City of Decatur & Candler Park. Walk to restaurants & shops. Studio 1/2/3 bedrooms, $750-$1400 month. Call 404-231-1473 for details.

Two bedroom townhouse I-85 Shallowford/Georgetown community. Private courtyard. Green and quiet. Laundry next door. Olympic pool. $860.00 mo. 706-482-2225.

VA-HI 3BR/1.5 BA on beautiful Orme Park. Lower level of duplex, living/room, w/fireplace, dining/room, eat in kitchen, loads of character. W/D hookup. $1500 mo. Call 404-892-5588. Avail 9/15

CONDOS/HOMES FOR RENT

BUCKHEAD'S #1 HIGHRISE
CUSTOM 2BR/2BA.
Buckhead Home 3BR/2BA
$1800.00 mo. Park Central,
1BR/ $1100/mo.
"Proudly representing our Atlanta family"
Pride Realty Inc. 404-352-5570.
" Because there's no place like home."
www.PrideRealty.com

GRANT PARK

Apartment in quite private residence in historic Grant Park. LR/BR/BA kitchen all appliances. Central heat/air, carpeted, tiled private entry & bath close to downtown/midtown. Safe secure environment. All utilities included. $750 mo. 404-355-9528.

Real Estate For Rent-APTS.

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS

Luxury 2BR/1.5BA renovated 20's Townhouse, living room, den, porch,2/fireplaces, C/H/A, W/D, Gourmet kitchen, off-street parking, fenced courtyard, alarm $1490/mo. No pets. 404-634-0151.

EMORY/ DECATUR

Large Luxury 3BR/2.5BA, Townhome, fireplace, built-in bookcases, C/H/A, double garage, walk-up attic, deck, W/D, quiet street. $1375/mo. No pets. Available Sept 15th 404-634-0151.

MABLETON

Totally renovated, 2BR/1BA spacious ideal for couples or singles, partial utilities. $685.00 mo. 770-948-5691 before 8pm.

Wonderful garden apartment in private home. Beautiful, safe Avondale-Decatur. Convenient to Decatur/Emory. Huge deck, park like yard, huge bedroom, sitting room (14x28), bonus room w/French doors. IR/kitchen, bath, A/C, W/D. Some pets OK. $725 plus $100 utilities includes cable. Dep. Non-smoking. Near Avondale Lake & MARTA. Lisa 404-649-5253 or 404-296-0809

A place on the park. Midtown 3/2 or better, 2BR & huge study. Prime views. Superb building. $1650/mo 404-874-2417.

Midtown on the park.1 BR, yard for garden, windows and high ceilings. $875/mo. 404-874-2418.

NORTHLAKE/BRIARCLIFF 10 min. midtown 3BR/2BA duplex, paid cable/garbage, no pets/smoking. 1 year, $1295/mo. Call Wayne 404-273-5229.

Real Estate for Rent-Condos

MIDTOWN

Renaissance Park Condo-Fabulous 1BR/1BA, tile/carpet, FP, WD, patio w/hot tub, gated pool community. Close to new shopping/groc store. No pets/smokers Avail 9/1. $950 mo. 404-888-0699

BUCKHEAD

The Terraces at Peachtree 1BR/1BA new hardwood floors, kitchen, appliances, and W/D. Reserved covered parking, pool and fitness room. $950/ month. Application & credit necessary. 404-876-0000.

DRUID HILLS/EMORY CONDO. Newly renovated 3BR/2.5BA near Fernbank. All amenities. $2000 per mo. Call 404-377-1320.

Real Estate For Rent-House

Grant Park: Beautiful 2 story home, excellent condition, 3 large bedrooms, 3 baths, cathedral ceilings, hardwoods, fireplace, porch, deck, pets ok. $1500/mo. Avail now! 404-724-0615.

House for rent OPEN SUNDAY 2-5pm. 740 Brown Place, Decatur 2BR/1BA, ceiling fans, hardwoods, deck, $850/mo. Non-smokers 706-378-9168

Morningside: Renovated 2BR/1BA semi-attached house. Quiet, secure. 824 San Antonio Dr. $1200 mo plus utilities. 404-589-1049

East Lake/East Atlanta: Newly renovated 3BR/1BA plus study home. Close to great restaurants & shopping. Covered front porch & natural backyard, hardwoods refinished, NEW everything! $1150 per mo plus dep OR lease purchase. 1946 Lomita Ave. SE 770-971-0746

Kirkwood/Decatur: History surrounds you in Kirkwood area. Beautiful restored turn of the century home 2BR/2BA antique fixtures, modern kitchen. Close to d'town Decatur. A must see! $1700 mo/ plus dep or lease purchase. 77 Howard St. 770-971-0746

Near D'town Decatur: Beautifully renovated homes 3/4BR 1/2 baths, fenced backyard, NEW everything. N'hoods rapidly being restored $1150 per mo plus deposit OR lease purchase. 3173 Bluebird Lane & 1561 Columbia Circle. 770-971-0746.

ANSLEY PARK

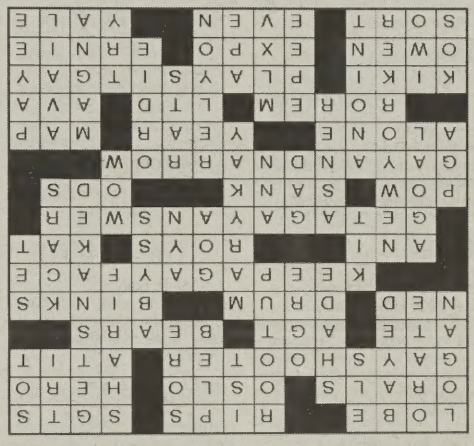
Charming 3BR/2BA bungalow, hardwood floors, 9ft. ceilings, fireplace, private back patio, fenced yard. 404-733-6885. $2100/mo. + deposit.

GRANT PARK

1902 Victorian 3BR/2BA house near Kelly's grocery and park. Hardwood floors, 3 decorative fireplaces, security, CHAC, wrap around front porch, deck, fenced yard. Pets ok $1650.00 mo + sec. 404-733-6885.

Q Puzzle solution

Answers to puzzle on Page 19



southern voice

Classified Order Form
Fax: 404-876-2709
Phone: 404-876-1819 ext. 15

TO PLACE AN AD: IN PERSON: Bring completed order form with payment to *Southern Voice* (M-F, 9-6 pm) 1075 Zonolite Rd., Ste. 1-D, Atlanta. **BY MAIL:** Mail completed order form with payment to *Southern Voice* Classifieds, 1075 Zonolite Rd, Ste. 1D, Atlanta, GA 30306. **BY PHONE:** Call in with completed order form to 404-876-1819 ext. 15. **BY FAX:** Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 404-876-2709. **BY E-MAIL:** classifieds@sovo.com. **AD POLICY:** *Southern Voice* reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting *Southern Voice* standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: *Southern Voice* is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

DEADLINE FOR AD SUBMISSION • ATLANTA: MONDAY AT 12 NOON

1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

FREE: Call for guidelines
___ HIV Services & Education
___ Volunteers

INDIVIDUAL RATE $7:
___ Announcements
___ Auditions
___ Employment-Seeking
___ Pets-Free or Lost & Found
___ Roommates

BUSINESS RATE $15:
___ Autos
___ Business
___ Employment-Full Time
___ Employment-Part Time
___ Finance
___ Health
___ Legal
___ Massage Therapy
___ Merchandise
___ Pets-For Sale, Training
___ Publications
___ Real Estate-For Rent
___ Real Estate-For Sale
___ Travel

Call 404-876-1819 ext. 15 (ATL) or 504-821-9041 (NEW ORL) for other categories

2 WRITE YOUR AD
Please print clearly

CATEGORY:_____ **# OF ISSUES:** _____

Giant Headline ($5/week)–Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST

INDIVIDUAL RATE ADS
Up to 20 words for $7.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.
Up to 20 words: 7.00
Additional words ____ x 50¢: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
Subtotal: _____ x ____ # of issues
Total: $_____

BUSINESS RATE ADS
Up to 20 words for $15.00 per week. Additional words at $1.00 each per week.
Up to 20 words: 15.00
Additional words ____ x $1.00: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
Subtotal: _____ x ____ # of issues
Total: $_____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City _____ State_____ Zip_____
Phone _____
Check Enclosed ____ Charge to my ❑ AMEX ❑ MC ❑ VISA
Card #_____ Exp.____/____

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS

Brand new never lived in. 3BR/2.5BA plus office. Very private master, gourmet kitchen, fireplace, hardwood floors, ceiling fans, wonderful porch, fenced yard, 2 car garage. $2500 mo. 404-266-2789.

NORTHLAKE/BRIARCLIFF 10 min. midtown 3BR/2BA duplex paid cable/ garbage, No Pets/Smoking. 1yr $1295 mo. Call Wayne 404-273-5229.

Real Estate For Sale

BE DIFFERENT

Two exciting new homes right out of Architectural Digest! European style with contemporary flair. Brookhaven area. Exceptional value. High $200's www.harrynorman.com FMLS 456707 & 501967. C. Coles 404-316-1402.

WALK TO PARK

New Orleans style total renovations in Midtown. 5BR/3BA, basement. Open dramatic plan. Granite kitchen, leaded glass windows, private front courtyard and fenced backyard. 857 Durant Place, $574,900. Jana Kreisberg/Harry Norman Realtors. 404-250-8568

DECATUR CITY

Town Square Condo. Just finished 1BR/1BA, pool, view, fireplace, W/D. Fitness party room. gated community, covered parking. By owner. $170,000. 404-378-9097.

You Can E-mail Your Classified Ad!

classifieds@sovo.com

Send your name, address, phone number, # of weeks the ad will run, plus a credit card number and expiration date for payment. See Southern Voice for rates or call 404-876-1819 ext. 15.

THE VARIATIONS

Discover this dynamite, spacious and convenient 2BR/2BA condominium for $149,900. Visit www.490050.larrywells.com for inside scoop! Larry Wells, ReMax greater Atlanta. 404-257-4930

NEW ORLEANS LA

MARIGNY CONDO REDUCED, slick 1BR/1.5 BA, parking, pool, $114,900 seller motivated!

MINT BYWATER DUPLEX $295,000-owner's unit 2658 sq ft.,LR, DR, Den, libr, kit, brkfst rm, 2BR SUITES.. rental 1363 sq.ft. w/2BR/2BA. Nice Yard!...

EXQUISITE 3 LEVEL MARIGNY SINGLE- 1 block from Quarter, den, LR, DR,K,slate/pine floors. 3 gas f/p's, balcony & courtyard ... very motivated seller - $425,000.

2 STORY GREEK REVIVAL-Bywater single, 3032 sq.ft. 3BR/2BA, parking, balconies, manicured corner lot. $315,000.

PRIME MARIGNY TRIANGLE SINGLE-1 block to Quarter, 3BR/2.5BA, 3016 sq.ft. front & side galleries-$350,000.

LANE LACOY, REALTOR, LATTER & BLUM REALTORS, INC. 504-948-3011

Fee simple Town home Brookhaven, North Dresden Sq. Association fee $45.00 mo. 2BR/2 1/2 BA, formal LR, DR, foyer, kitchen with hardwoods, all appliances with 1 year warranty, fireplace, gas logs, carpet, jaccuzi opt. Koi pond, water fall with Japanese maples. Upstairs owner suite, tile bath, dual security alarm. For sale by owner agents protected. 770-454-8271.

DRUID HILLS ANNEX

HILLTOP CHARMER! 2BR/1BA brick bungalow on 3/4 acre within walking distance of VA/HI and Morningside shops and restaurants. Hardwoods, fireplace, off street parking. Low DeKalb taxes. $324,900 Call Roberta Clare, 14 West Realtors 404-245-0765.

MIDTOWN CONDO

Designer 2 story condo across from Piedmont Park! 2BR/1BA with 2 deeded parking spaces, extra storage, hardwoods and decorators touch! $209,900. Call Roberta Clare 14 West Realtors 404-245-0765.

BUCKHEAD

Sophisticated Townhome near Chastain!! Gourmet kitchen, huge master ste, 4BR/3.5BA, finish lower level. Private courtyard. Perfect roommate plan. Only ~~$329,900~~!! Alec Williams Coldwell Banker/Buckhead Broker. 404-705-1666

Tucker/Northlake diverse, friendly neighborhood. All brick 4BR/2.5BA. Completely repainted with nice yard, fenced in back. Ideal for couples. $209,900. 770-492-1380.

DECATUR

3BR/1.5 brick ranch, gas fireplace, hardwoods, large fenced yard. Must see inside, will love ! $207,800 By Owner 404-676-1255. OPEN SUN 2-5 Agents protected.

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Booming area. Minutes from midtown Emory/Decatur. Beautiful brick ranch 4BR/2BA, daylight basement, many updates. $209,000. You will love it! OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 770-414-1977 or 404-325-9460. Re/Max/Atl

DECATUR BEAUTY

Renovated 4/2, hardwoods, spacious rooms, corian, stainless steel, huge fenced yard, sunroom/office, patio. $239k. Patrick Gilvin, Synergy Realty. 678-560-3979.

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Roommates

Morningside/Emory, GWM seeks same, great for student, large bedroom (11x15) and bath, in renovated ranch home, W/D, AC, alarm, off street parking, maid service included. No smoking, no pets, $500. + 1/2 utilities and deposit. 404-815-7548

Ellenwood/Stockbridge 20 min from Midtown/Decatur area. GWF professional seeks same non-smoker, 1 pet ok to share 3BR home. $375.00 mo. includes utilities. Separate phone line. 404-626-4022

Stone Mountain GBM to share 4BR/2.5BA house in swim/tennis community all rooms furnished. $400.00/mo. 404-271-5881

L5P/Candler Park: Seek responsible, dependable, quiet lesbian housemate. C/H/A, W/D, hardwood floors, MARTA. Have dog. $400mo, 1/2 utilities, deposit. 404-522-5623.

NORCROSS

OLD historic Downtown Norcross. Need a quiet, financially stable person to share my peaceful home. Private entrance & off-street parking, and security system. $450/mo. Call Leigh 770-662-9263.

Roommate wanted to share 2BR home in quiet residential black neighborhood in South DeKalb. (Gresham Rd. exit off I-20) LR, kitchen, DR, den, 1.5 bath, patio, big yard. 15 min. from Midtown. $450/mo. plus 1/2 utilities plus deposit. 404-849-6749.

2 GMs needing 1 M/F to share 3BR/1BA house in Cabbagetown, large deck, 12 ft. ceilings, renovated just last year, W/D, A/C, 1 small dog. $400/mo. plus $400 dep. Immediate availability 404-577-6795.

GWM ISO GM to share 2BR/2.5BA Townhome, Mableton, CCT, $400/month. Includes all. $200 deposit unfurnished, no smoking/drugs. 770-675-3360 or 404-610-8688.

Roommate needed to share Decatur condo $450.00, includes all utilities. For more info call 404-294-9894.

MIDTOWN- Share 4BR/2.5BA house on 9th St. Two blocks from Blake's. Handsome, spacious home. Seeking "quality" housemate. Students okay. $525/mo. 404-888-0888.

Buckhead -seeks GWM, responsible, clean, nonsmoker, fitness-minded, 3/2 home, hot tub, private patio, share bath. $450/month. Ron 404-788-0572 pager.

Roommate Wanted: GWM seeking roommate for spacious 3BR/2.5BA house in Tucker near 85/285 (20 min from town). Living room, family room, dining room, fireplace, garage. Must be responsible and non-smoking. $600.00 + 1/2 utilities. 770-414-7297.

INMAN PARK

Prof. GWM seeks responsible roommate to share 2BR/2.5BA house. Private bath, garage, hardwoods, on secure street. 2 cats/outside smokers ok. $625 mo + 1/2 utilities + deposit. 404-377-7912.

ORMEWOOD/ E.ATLANTA

GWM to share large beautifully restored 2BR/1BA home. Fully furnished except BR. No drugs/smoking. Great neighborhood. $400 + 1/2 utilities Rex 404-627-6563.

Lesbian looking for roommate for cute 3/BR house in Lakewood-1120 Oak Knoll Terrace $350/mo. + 1/2 utilities. Must like smokers and dogs.(I have 2). Call Julie 404-627-1059

GWM looking for clean, responsible, non-smoker to share very nice townhouse. Close to Buckhead area. $450.00 mo. No Pets. 404-634-7563.

West End: Straight but cool roommate looking for 1/2 roommates for intown 4BR 1910 house, 4 fireplaces, 2 porches, CH/A. $375.00 1/3 utilities. 404-755-8457.

GWF looking for roommate to share 3BR/2BA home near Marietta. No pets non-smoker please. 770-366-3725.

GRANT PARK

GWM looking for considerate, professional, fun, and responsible roommate to share a great Victorian 3BR/2BA home. $700/mo. plus deposit and 1/2 utilities. Mature dog, will consider other pets. Avail Oct.1st. Call Keith at 404-627-9002

GRANT PARK

Private furnished room and bath, open minded, clean, no pets, $500.mo $1000 deposit, share utilities, need references. Kirk 404-524-1510.

Buford Hwy, 2BR/2BA apt. GM seeks same to share. $450.00 per month. Great location. Call for additional information/appointment. 404-471-1750.

MORNINGSIDE/VA.Highlands-GWM seeks responsible roommate to share a large newly renovated home. House features a pool, hot tub, and home theater. $600/mo includes utilities & maid service 404-873-1000.

1 room for rent in private house on MARTA. $450 includes all utilities. W/D, 10 minutes to midtown, Mercer University Drive. Call 770-934-8014.

Rooms For Rent

Home But Not Alone- Enjoy reduced rent and comfortable housing. Fast placements, homes now available! No waiting list. Share with a person living with HIV. Call Rita at 770-395-2625. or call Susan at 770-395-2546.

Services

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Volunteers

FOOD NOT BOMBS

Volunteers needed to help prepare and serve meals for the homeless and needy. Founded in Boston in 1981, 140 locations nationwide and abroad, serving 3 times weekly. Financial Aid Welcomed! To volunteer, call Bob Darby at 404-622-5859.

The Ga. Council on Child Abuse is a statewide, non-profit, child abuse prevention agency. Volunteers are needed in a variety of opportunities. For more information on volunteering please call 404-870-6573.

Volunteer Facilitator

Needed for HIV Support Group. Lead AIDS Survival Projects' Monday Night Positively Living Support Group. Each Monday 7:30-9:30pm. The group is open to Men & Women who are living w/HIV. Prefer that the facilitator has training in social work, psychology, or sociology. Group exp. preferred. Any Interested persons should call Terri Wilder at 404-874-7926 ext 13.

Help a child

AID Atlanta is looking for responsible adults who have one morning a week available to volunteer in the playroom at the Grady Ponce de Leon Center. You would be caring for HIV-infected and affected children 10 years and younger. For more information please call Bob Ford 404-870-7741.

NATIONAL AIDS EDUCATION & SERVICES for MINORITIES is seeking volunteers for the following areas: special events, bar & club outreach, clerical support, house monitor, food pantry, clothing closet, fund raising, yard maintenance, group facilitation, and education. Volunteer training available monthly. Please contact Jala at 404-753-2900, ext 17.

Volunteer *Facilitator*

Help us serve your community!! The center is seeking a volunteer facilitator to lead our Women's group (for lesbians and bisexual women). Master's degree in psychology, social work, counseling or other mental health related field preferred, but not required. Please call us at 404-523-7500 or cw@aglc.org.

Volunteer facilitator

Help us serve your community!! The center is seeking a volunteer facilitator to lead our GLBT Parents Groups. Master's degree in psychology social work, counseling or other mental health field preferred but not required. Knowledge and/or experience with parenting issues required. Please call us at 404-523-7500 or cw@aglc.org.

The south metro youth council for the American Red Cross is seeking volunteers/youth council members for varied activities. We have a calender of events for the 2001 term. Please call 770-506-4233 for info.

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Men Seeking Men

SEEKING LTR
Attractive, healthy GBM, 37, 5'9", 155lbs, HIV+, seeks mature, stable SM for friendship and LTR. Atlanta ☎4787

LOOKING FOR THE ONE
GWM, 25, 5'9", 150lbs, tan and smooth, generally a bottom, looking for a WM, 25-40, who is adventurous yet serious at the same time, for possible LTR. Decatur ☎4859

HEY THERE!
What's up? Black male, 31, 5'11", 165lbs, just looking for a cool guy to hang out with. Get back to me! Take care! ☎5138

CUTE, SWEET BOTTOM
Attractive SBM, 5'5", 148lbs, muscular build, light brown complexion, enjoys exercise, reading, dining out. Seeking aggressive top, for possible monogamous LTR. Race/age unimportant. Atlanta ☎4865

SEEKING MASCULINITY
GWM, 19, 5'10", 180lbs, brown/brown, enjoys clubbing, dining out, swimming, long walk, movies. Seeking masculine, honest, humorous GM, with similar interests, for friendship, possible LTR. Jonesboro ☎5131

SEEKING SAME
Easygoing, honest, romantic guy, 31, 5'7", 155lbs. N/Drugs, seeks same in PM, under 35, who enjoys travel. Atlanta ☎5082

GAINESVILLE
SWM, 30, 6', 170lbs, blond/blue, enjoys photography, videos, outdoors, country music. Seeking male under 30, for dating. Mount Airy ☎1880

HUNGRY FOR BIG BICEPS
Handsome, in shape, caring GWM, 37, 5'11", 185lbs, seeks massive GWM, body builder for friendship, cuddling and muscle worship! Show those muscles off to your number one fan. Atlanta ☎4939

FUNNY, ATTRACTIVE...
fit male, 6', 175lbs, blond/green, enjoys travel, working out, and his two dogs. Seeking sincere, honest, funny guy. Atlanta ☎4349

ALL FOR YOU
Muscular, masculine BM, 28, model looks, great personality, seeks honest, masculine, fit, older WM for fun and casual dating. Atlanta ☎5072

KINDRED SPIRIT
Attractive, masculine, successful, secure, romantic GWM, 40-something, top, seeks attractive, younger relationship GWM, bottom, to adore. Serious only. Atlanta ☎4093

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Sincere, honest, quiet, easygoing GWM, 56, 145lbs, brown/brown, mustache, N/S, N/D, enjoys movies, quiet evenings. Seeking male, 40-60, for relationship. Stone Mountain ☎4088

YOU WON'T FIND THIS 1...
in bars. Healthy, HIV+, very loving Italian male, 48, 5'7", stocky but not fat, with home in urban Atlanta, seeks HIV+ male, 18-35. ☎4964

ROMANTIC ADVENTURE
Handsome, outgoing, open-minded, masculine GBM, 31, 5'11", 220lbs, seeks well-rounded, down-to-earth, fearless SM, 25-50, race unimportant, for friendship and monogamous relationship. Atlanta ☎5030

DARK AND SEXY
SBM, 28, 5'11", 180lbs, muscular build, seeks GM for casual dating, possible LTR. Serious inquiries only. Atlanta ☎5025

SEEKING DAD
GWM, 30, seeks in-shape, gay dad, 40-55, for discreet meetings, satisfaction guaranteed. Atlanta ☎5003

MUSCLE GUY SEEKS SAME
SM, 5'10", 200lbs, muscular, tan, smooth body, likes working out, yard work, travel, the beach, the outdoors. Seeking SM for fun, dating, possible relationship. Norcross ☎4996

SPORTS-MINDED
SWM, 33, 5'9", 175lbs, blue eyes, crew-cut, goatee, loves sports, movies, theater. Seeking down-to-earth, outgoing, caring, stocky, sincere, up-front guy for possible LTR. Lawrenceville ☎4997

IVORY SEEKS EBONY
GWM, 48, 6'1", 180lbs, HIV+, healthy, easygoing, loves to travel, walks in the park, relaxing at home, dining out. Seeking GBM, 35-50, with similar interests, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎5073

SOMEONE JUST LIKE ME
SWM, 46, 5'9", 155lbs, brown/blue, moustache, easy to get along with, seeks male, 35-55, for friendship/relationship. Please be sincere, honest, humorous. All replies answered. Mountain City ☎3369

Been Glanced?

PUBLIX ON PIEDMONT 7/9
You: WM, blond, blue/white striped shirt, stunning blue eyes. Me: WM, brown hair, goatee, orange shirt. Can I cook you dinner? Atlanta ☎4897

ANGELA
We spoke a few times in between spines. If you caught my clue, and would like to rendezvous, just let me know and we can go to a show! Atlanta ☎5103

ANSLEY KROVER 8/13/01
Crowded. Monday evening. You: BM, glasses with flowered plant only. Me: WM, glasses asked if you wanted to go ahead of me. You said no. Dinner? Atlanta ☎5075

LENNOX TOWERS-AUG 6
ME: Waiting for stop light, in silver mazda. You: tall, slender BM in tan sweater and slacks. Ran in front of my car, looked, looked again, looked again. lets talk! Atlanta ☎5040

SATURDAY, 8-18-2001
10th and Northside Dr., we talked, you left. Are you interested in a lunch or dinner date? Call or stop by. Atlanta ☎5133

7/30
CLAIRE MOUNT LOUNGE
You: hot girl with friends, dark hair black shirt. Me: on stage I am gay and interested, I played "butterfly" you gave me butterflies, would love to meet. Atlanta ☎5002

8/17, AT "ON THE BORDER"
8/17, happy hour, you: blue shirt/khakis, me: black shirt/jeans. We exchanged several glances across the bar. Would love to meet you. Atlanta ☎5104

BANK OF AMERICA/CONCOURSE
You: cute blond, Abercrombie shirt, blue BMW, Cobb Co. plate. Me: dark-haired, green Saturn. You turned left, I turned right. You seemed interested. Me too. Call me. Atlanta ☎4965

SEEKING ROGER
WM, 6', 190lbs, muscular, attractive, seeks BM, around 6', 200lbs+, attractive, muscular, seen at Blake's. Atlanta ☎4879

MUSCLE JOCK SEEKS DAD
Shy, submissive SWM, 28, 6'2", 230lbs, seeks fun-loving, easy-going, financially secure GWM, 45+, for monogamous LTR. Atlanta ☎4659

QUALITY GUY SEEKS SAME
All-American type guy, 6'2", 180lbs, dark/dark, seeks a male for casual dating or friendship. Atlanta ☎4840

COMPANIONSHIP
Honest, sincere GBM, 33, HIV+, seeks secure GBM for friendship first, possible committed, long-term relationship. Atlanta ☎4042

GBM, HIV+,...
5'9", 155lbs, outgoing and honest, seeks romance and adventure with a quality man. You must be GWM, 33-40, honest, and not afraid of an LTR and monogamy. East Point ☎4900

HARD-WORKING, CARING
BPM, HIV+, 5'10", 178lbs, 40s, enjoys exercise, dining in and out, cozy evenings, and more. Seeking similar, sincere male, any race, possible LTR. Dunwoody area. ☎4019

SENSITIVE LIBRA
Stable, mature GWM 39, 5'9", 165lbs, brown/brown, HIV-, blue jeans t-shirt and boots type, blue-collar, work-aholic, seeks monogamous male 35-45, no games. Dating friends, possible LTR ☎5001

WARM HEARTED
Athletic, hard bodied, very healthy GWM, 38, 6'1", brown/blue, HIV+, with many different interests, extremely passionate. Seeking courtship with like minded. Atlanta ☎3930

SINGLE BARE BOTTOM DAD,
6'3", 220lbs, brown/brown, HIV-, seeks slim, fun-loving, spiritual, top/versatile single GWM, 33 to 45, non-bar crawler, for friendship first, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4829

POLICE OR UNIFORM
GWM, 6'2", 225lbs, flat top, gym hard, seeks a policeman or uniform freak for dating/relationship. Villa Rica ☎4960

ARE YOU HUSKY?
WM, 54, 5'10", 230lbs, hairy bear, bottom, seeks husky/chubby, sincere guy for fun, friendship, and possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4735

SEEKING COMPANION
Attractive, masculine, financially secure GBM, 38, 5'11", 195lbs, seeks GBM for friendship and companionship. All calls will be answered. Lithonia ☎3376

MEET INTERESTING GUYS
Would you like to meet men age 18-?? in a well lit smoke free environment? Don't like the bar scene or games? Come to the Bachelor party. Call me. Atlanta ☎5041

SEEKING QUALITY GUY
GWM, 36, 6'2", 190lbs, brown/brown, seeks similar GWM, 25-45, who enjoys movies, outdoors, sports, for friendship, possible relationship. Sugar Hill ☎4260

SEEKING SPECIAL SOMEONE
Attractive, healthy SBM, 35, HIV+, N/S, social drinker, slender build, seeks down-to-earth, sincere SM, HIV+, not into mind games or club scene. Atlanta ☎4932

SEEKING NEW FRIEND
Male, 30, 6'3", 210lbs, Atlanta area, enjoys tennis, beaches, theater, art. Seeking a male to spend time with, for friendship, possibly more. ☎4825

SOMETHING DIFFERENT
SM, 6', 200lbs, black/blue, likes sports, walks, biking, camping, reading, movies. Seeking quiet, easygoing man, for friendship first, maybe more. Macon ☎4795

SCORPIO
Very cute SM, 20, 6', 150lbs, HIV-, dark blonde/hazel, bottom, seeks older, financially stable, attractive, muscular GWM in the Atlanta area, for possible LTR. ☎5063

BOTTOM'S UP!
GWM, early 30's, 5'7", 135lbs, dark/hazel, top-only, enjoys movies, cooking, watching tv. Seeking SWM, 30-45, bottom, for dating, possible LTR. Tucker ☎4828

SEEKING A FRIEND
GWM, 40, 6', 210lbs, blond/brown, enjoys conversation, outdoors, sports, movies, music, reading. Seeking easygoing GM for friendship, possible LTR. Alma ☎5015

HUSKY BEAR
GWPM, youthful 40s, 5'11", brown hair, moustache, beard, seeks same. Must be honest and open to possible LTR. Atlanta ☎5062

MAINSTREAM GUY
Masculine SWM, 41, 5'9", 165lbs, athletic, handsome, enjoys sports, movies, politics, outdoors, travel. Seeking same, 30-45, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎5011

HEART-ON
Come on and try this HIV+ GWM, 47, 5'11", 190lbs, toned build, shaved head, blue eyes, blond goatee, honest, affectionate, sexual, enjoys movies, hiking, dining out, aerobics. Let's talk. Atlanta ☎4775

SEEK LOVE, HAPPINESS
Affectionate, caring BM, 49, 5'9", 201lbs, seeks attractive, caring, sensitive SM, 55+, for cuddling and companionship. Normal ☎3978

SOUTHSIDE MAN
Good-looking GWM, 63 years young, 6', 175lbs, enjoys sports, arts, dining out, fitness. Seeking good-looking GM, 45-60, preferably Hispanic, in good shape, for dating, possible LTR. South side. Stockbridge. ☎4946

SEEKING LATINO
Attractive WM, great shape, healthy, seeks attractive, masculine SHM, 25-35, N/S, N/Drugs, for friendship, LTR. Atlanta ☎5067

HIV+ BLACK MALE
SBM, 45, 6', 198lbs, Native American descent, healthy HIV+, seeks healthy HIV+ SB/HM, for possible monogamous relationship. Barnesville ☎3294

ROMANCE AND LOVE
GHM, 49, 5'11", 183lbs, seeks honest, romantic, sincere guy, for possible LTR. Age/race unimportant. North Atlanta ☎4171

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Call costs $2.29 per minute. Must be 18+

With your credit card, call
1-800-982-6829

SEEKING FRIEND/LOVER
Secure GBM, 38, 5'10", 170lbs, D/D-free, enjoys sports and quiet times at home. Seeking similar, attractive, masculine man, 35+, for fun times. Roswell ☎4937

TOGETHER FOREVER
Gentle WM, 50, 6', 250lbs, brown/brown, enjoys music, dining, travel, the coast, dancing. Seeking SF. Mount Airy ☎4977

MILITARY MAN
Greek, Italian SM, 22, 6', 170lbs, brown/brown, athletic build, enjoys hanging out, working out, running. Seeking attractive W/HM. Duluth ☎4990

WM SEEKS BM
Attractive, unique male, 39, 6'1", 195lbs, seeks same in secure, diverse, open-minded top BM. Atlanta ☎4085

RELATIONSHIP ORIENTED?
So am I! Let's talk! Honest, thoughtful, sincere GWM, 44, 6'3", 195lbs, N/S, sweet disposition, non-scene, seeks same to take chance on dating with possibility of relationship. Atlanta ☎4658

SEEKING MONOGAMOUS LTR
GWM, 55, 6'6", 195lbs, sandy/blue, enjoys dining out, movies, and travel. Seeking GB/H/A or Native-American male. Stone Mountain ☎4938

SEEKING BODY BUILDER
Muscular GWM, 41, 5'7", 150lbs, with slim, muscular build, enjoys working out, outdoors, beaches, cultural events. Seeking large-chested body builder, over 35, for dating. Atlanta ☎4936

FUN GUY
Light-hearted, sensitive WPM, 6'2", 185lbs, brown/brown, loves reading, movies. Seeking upbeat, down-to-earth, spiritual guy for casual dating. Atlanta ☎3538

SEEKING COMPANION
SBM, 50, 6'1", 195lbs, masculine, enjoys movies, theater, sports, travel, reading, live music. Seeking honest, down-to-earth SM for casual dating and friendship first. ☎4858

FIRST TIME
Closing ceremonies, 6-24, would like to meet and have coffee, you with blacked framed glasses, was drinking bottled beer with two guys and two girls. Atlanta ☎4567

ASIAN...
male, 34, caring, romantic, has good sense of humor, enjoys being together. Seeking friendly, honest, outgoing male. Age unimportant. Atlanta ☎4798

RUGGED AND SENSITIVE
Creative, artistic SM, 46, 5'9", dark/hazel, medium build, enjoys working out, theater, plays, movies, music. Seeking outgoing, stable, fun male, social drinker. Atlanta ☎3975

HANDSOME MACON GUY
GWPM, 36, 5'10", 160lbs, brown/hazel, masculine, fit, enjoys dining, travel, outdoors, spending time with that special person. Seeking similar SWM, 24-39, for friendship and more. Macon ☎5106

LOOKING TO FIND
Tall dark-skinned SM black hair brown eyes, looking for light-skinned,tall, muscular significant other. If interested please call. Decatur ☎4899

Women Seeking Women

EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL SWPF
Attractive, intelligent, young-looking, feminine woman, 40, seeks peer, 35-45. Must enjoy open communication, have great depth, warmth, character, and embrace an exciting, stable, healthy relationship. N/Drugs, N/S, no heavy drinking. Canton ☎5107

BEAUTIFUL GWF
GWF, 31, 5'9", 140lbs, brown/brown, very feminine, 14 year-old daughter, likes movies, walks in the park, Nascar. Seeking someone for fun, travel, quiet times, possible LTR. Hampton ☎4797

HERE WE GO AGAIN
Petite, athletic-built WPF, 41, enjoys golf, movies, music, beach, mountains, reading. Seeking honest female, 35-50, good sense of humor, for friendship first, possible LTR. Waleska ☎3036

I'M HERE, WHERE ARE YOU?
SF, 43, with MS, is seeking a feminine BF to spend time with, maybe more. Douglasville ☎4976

SMART AND SEXY
SF, 19, black/brown, stud, likes clubbing, movies, music. Seeking laid-back SF, for friendship, dating, possible LTR. ☎5000

SPORTY BUT FEMININE
Healthy in mind and body. GWF, 46, H/W proportionate, with a variety of interests, enjoys travel, hiking, tennis. Seeking woman of similar age/interests. Atlanta. McDonough ☎4764

HOLLER AT ME, GIRL
Deep, dark chocolate female, 5'10", 195lbs, athletic build, jet black/brown eyes, enjoys sports, reading, and shopping. Seeking femme, rambunctious, outgoing woman. Stone Mountain ☎5071

MID 30S AND EARLY 40S
GWM couple, seeks down-to-earth GWM or GWF for friendship only. Enjoys dining out, movies, weekend travel. Not into bar scene, N/Drugs, and N/S. Lawrenceville ☎4320

NEED A FRIEND?
GWF, 48, enjoys outdoors, dining, intelligent conversation. Seeking GWF, 36+, for friendship. Covington ☎3956

WE KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE!
Professional GWF couple seeks GWFs (or other couples) for friendship. Enjoy movies, dining out, board games, nature, and much more! Not into bar scene. N/S, N/D, N/Drugs. Lithia Springs ☎5039

I LOVE WOMEN
SF, 22, loves picnics in the park, walks in the dark, movies, dinner. If this sounds interesting, call me. Age/race/size unimportant. Atlanta ☎4728

WAITING FOR YOU
Brown-complected, broad-minded SBF, 28, 5', 120lbs, enjoys good music, good food, travel, shopping, reading, park walks, beach, candlelight dinners, tv. Seeking responsible, independent, loving, caring, adventurous, feminine woman. Atlanta ☎4949

SMART AND SEXY
GBF, 32, 5'8", seeks other SBF for friendship, fun, good times, possible relationship. Atlanta ☎4732

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
SWF, 37, N/Drugs, feminine, spiritual, appreciates butch women, loves the outdoors, music. Seeking trustworthy, stable women for friendship. Talking Rock ☎4883

DOUGLASVILLE
Handsome WM, 5'11", 205lbs, blue eyes, all-over tan, works out five days a week, seeks other gym types that like to sunbathe and go to the beach. Douglasville ☎4857

SEEKING NEW FRIEND
Spiritual GBF couple, early 30s, enjoys poetry, stimulating conversation, fine dining, and social functions. Seeking other couples with similar interests, for friendship. Lithonia ☎4668

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HONEST CAPRICORN
Sensitive SF, 35, 5'2", brown/brown, pretty smile, enjoys my dogs, country dancing, poetry, working out, singing, motorcycles, outdoors. Seeking trustworthy, affectionate, honest, sensitive SF for friendship first, maybe more. Lawrenceville ☎5037

NEWLY OUT & SINGLE
Intelligent, attractive GWF, 36, brown/blue, fem/soft butch, enjoys movies, books, music, dancing, quiet evenings, rainy nights. Seeking butch GWF, N/S, N/Drugs, with similar interests, for friendship first possible LTR. Clermont ☎4896

'S WONDERFUL
GWPF, cute, confident, fun-loving, not into bars, seeks GWPF, femme to soft butch, 35-50, N/S, N/D, for friendship maybe more? Love quiet evenings, conversation, theater, golf, dining out. Interested? Tucker ☎5050

DOWN-TO-EARTH LIBRA
Full-figured GBF, 35, mother of two, enjoys movies, tennis, bowling, reading, music, travel. Seeking friendship first, possible LTR. D/D-free. Atlanta ☎4275

R U THERE?
GWPF, 31, feminine, outgoing, hopeless romantic, seeks soft butch-butch GWF, for walks in the park, clubs, movies, concerts. No BiF please. Atlanta ☎4831

FEMME SEEKS SOFT BUTCH
GBF, 5'2", 120lbs, looking for fun-loving, soft butch, 40s-early 50s, for friendship first, possible LTR. Decatur ☎5105

CONSENSUAL FUN
No romantic dinners. No moonlight. No movies. No cuddly, fluffy bunnies. A little leather. A little adventure. A lot of excitement. GWF prowling for playmate. Possible LTR. Possibly not. Decatur ☎5074

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Intelligent WPF, 35, 5'7", 135lbs, seeks fun-loving, honest, secure WPF, 30-something to share good times, art events, concerts, dinners, and possible romance. N/S, N/Drugs. Atlanta ☎4966

Just Friends

INTELLIGENT, CARING...
and fun. SWJF, 21, enjoys art, music, movies, books, dancing, and animals. Seeking educated SF, 21-30, N/S, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎5084

SEEKING SPECIAL FEMME
Woman, 43, 5'7", 130lbs, brown/green, enjoys movies, cards, fishing, and traveling. Seeking honest femme woman who likes to be treated like a lady. Atlanta ☎5069

Bisexuals

GIVE ME A CALL
Attractive GWPF, mid 40s, loves travel, candlelight dinners, the outdoors, quiet evenings at home. Seeking feminine, attractive GWF for possible LTR. Lawrenceville ☎5033

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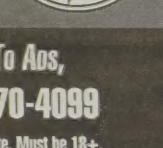
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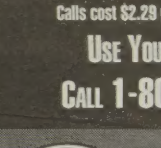
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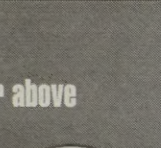
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